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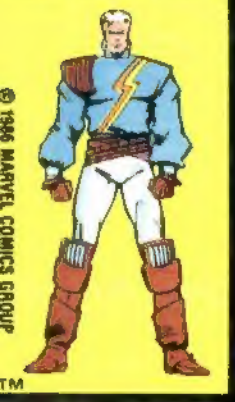

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LAND OF OTHER SHADOWS

TAKE OFF INTO A BRAND NEW UNIVERSE -- COURTESY OF

STEVE ENGLEHART STORY * GEOF ISHERWOOD PENCILS * VINCE COLLETTA INKS * RICK PARKER LETTERS * GEORGE ROUSSOS COLOR * MICHAEL HIGGINS EDITOR * JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF

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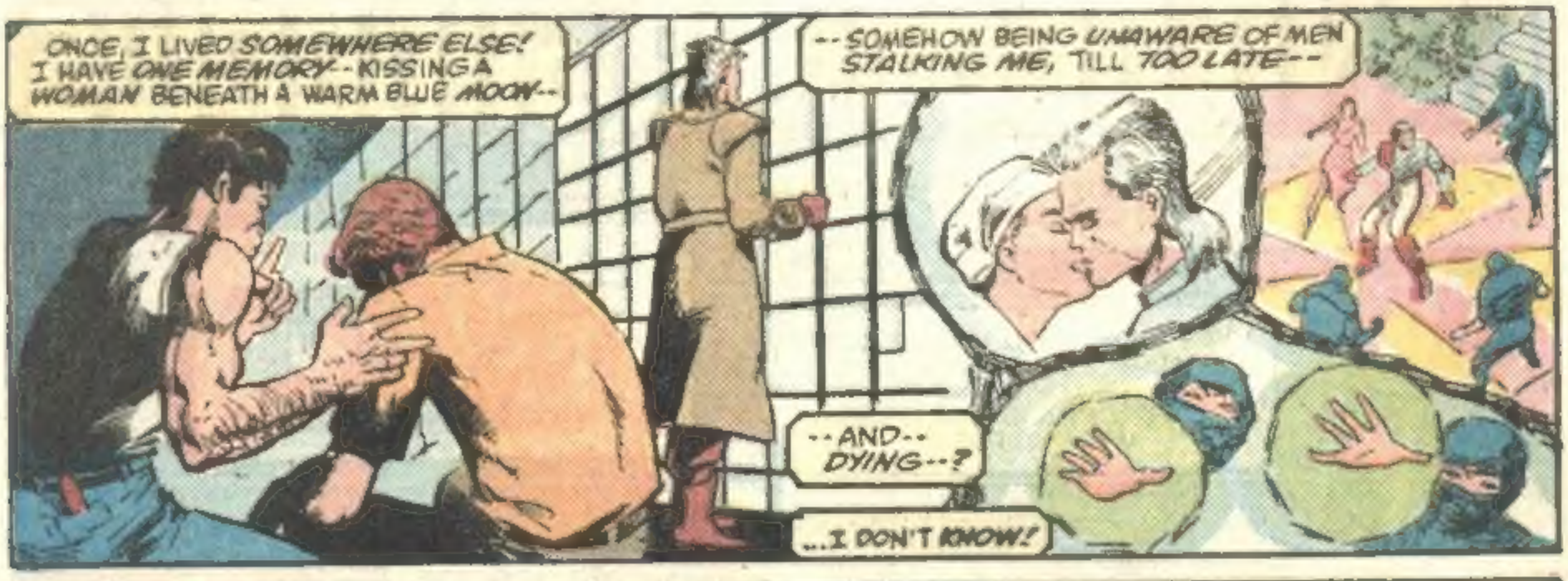
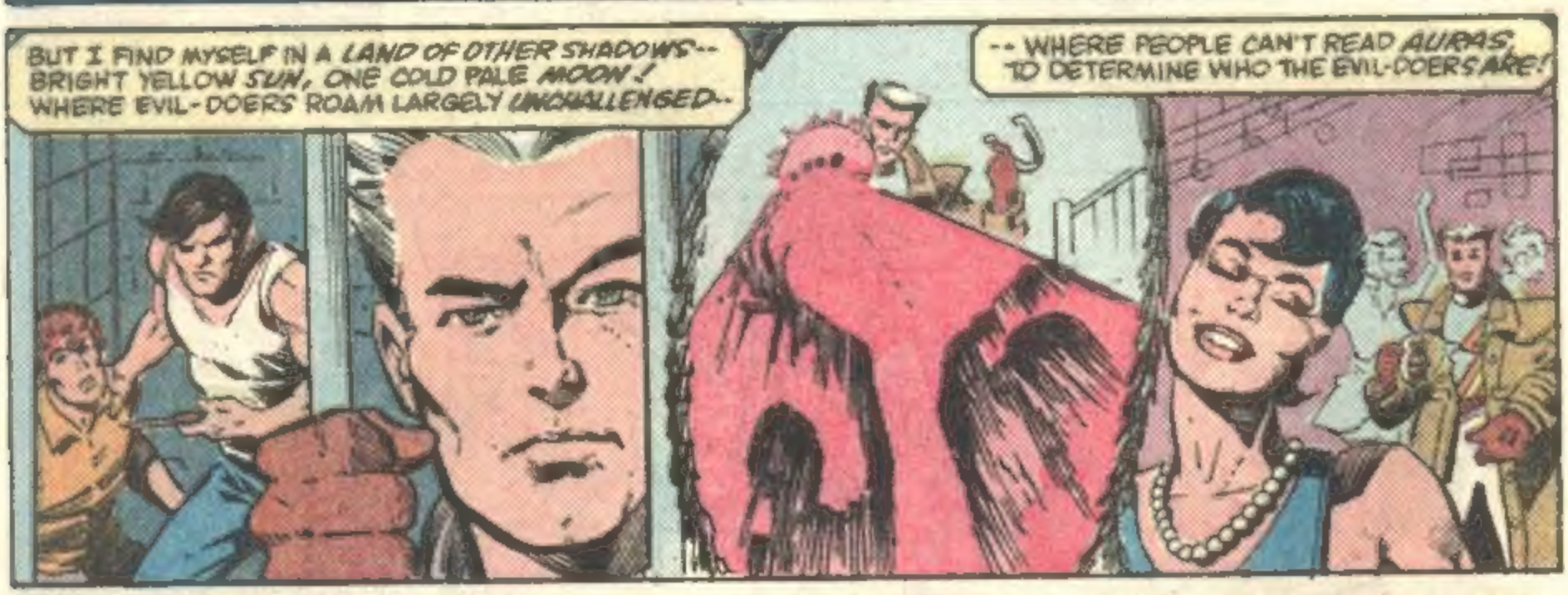
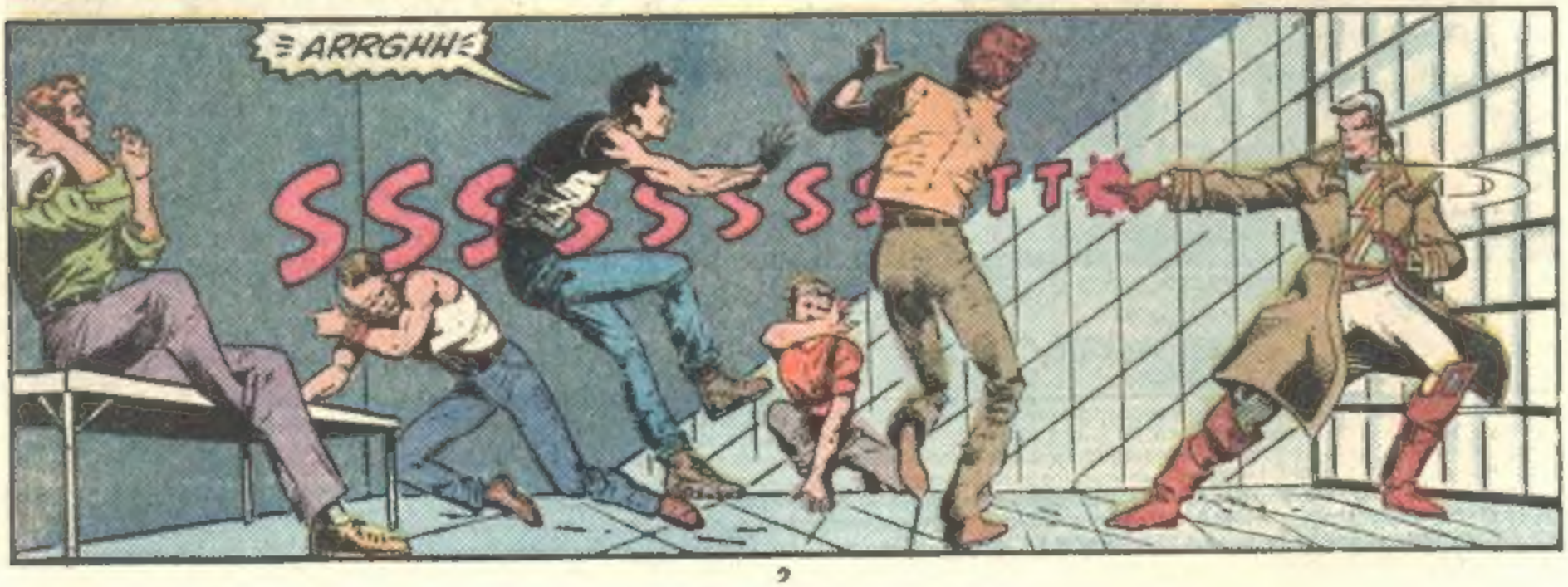

ONCE, I LIVED SOMEWHERE ELSE! I HAVE ONE MEMORY--KISSING A WOMAN BENEATH A WARM BLUE MOON--
--SOMEHOW BEING UNAWARE OF MEN STALKING ME, TILL TOO LATE--
--AND-- DYING--?
...I DON'T KNOW!


BUT I FIND MYSELF IN A LAND OF OTHER SHADOWS-- BRIGHT YELLOW SUN, ONE COLD PALE MOON! WHERE EVIL-DOERS ROAM LARGELY UNCHALLENGED--
--WHERE PEOPLE CAN'T READ AURAS, TO DETERMINE WHO THE EVIL-DOERS ARE!

WHERE I'VE SPENT ENOUGH TIME LEARNING WHAT THE EVIL-DOERS KNOW, ABOUT THE OPERATIONS THEY'RE INVOLVED IN!
AND WHERE--


ARRGHH
SSSSSSSSSTTT

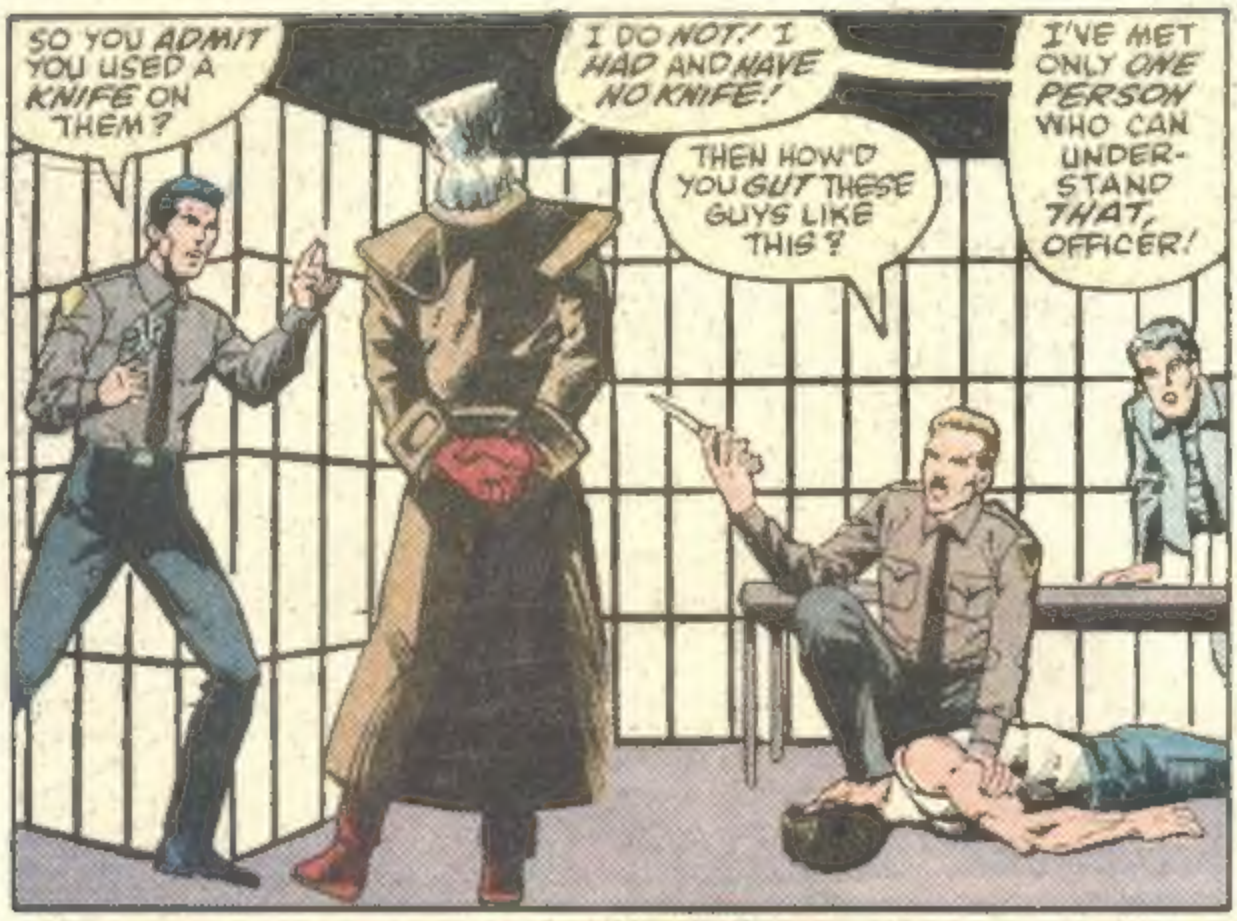
HOLY--! MAN, YOU KILLED 'IM!
WE WUZ JUST GONNA TALK TO YA, MAN!

HE'S LYING!

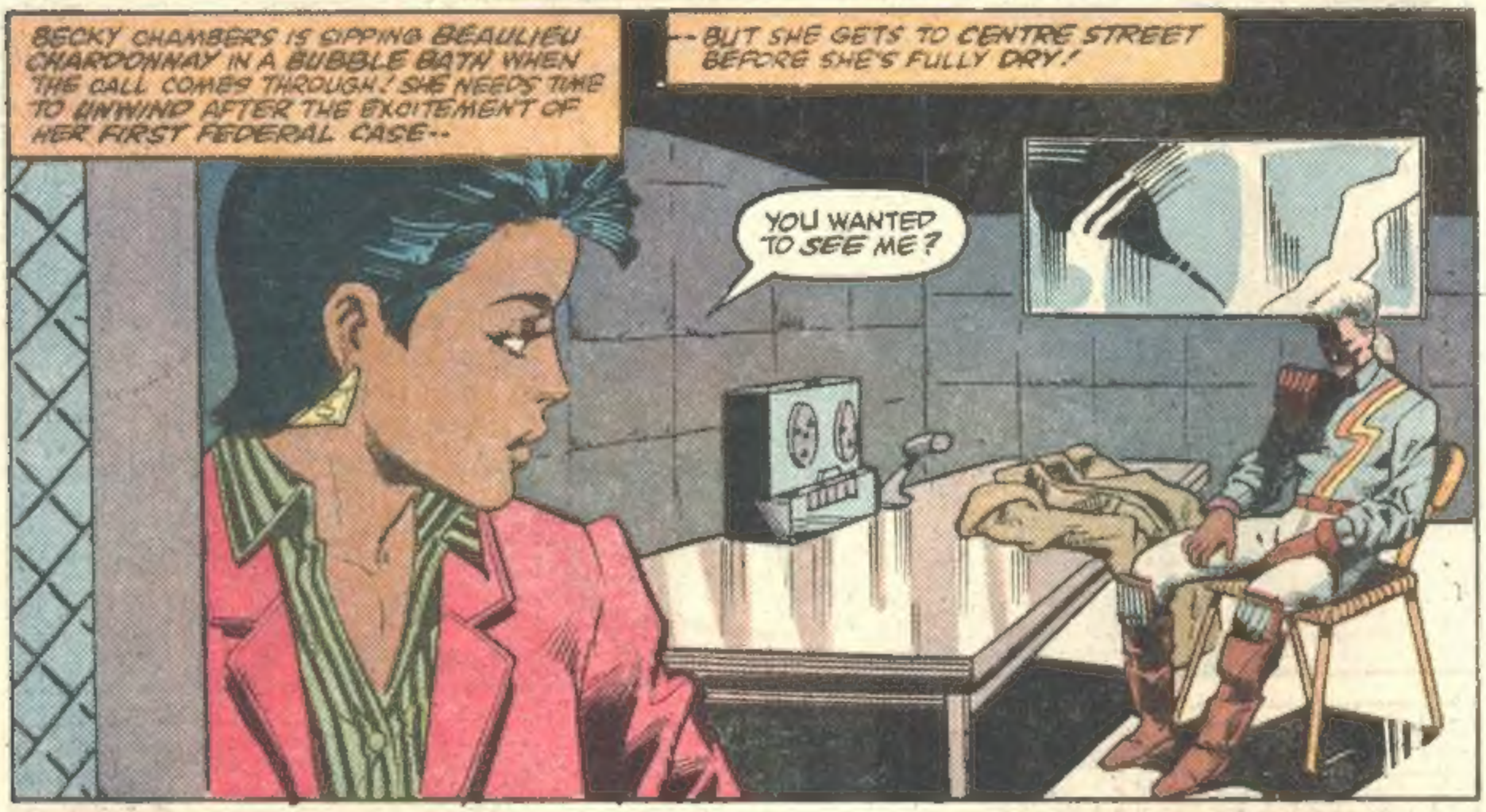
YOUR LANGUAGE IS FILTHY!
GUARD! GUARD!

ALL RIGHT, WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
HE-- HE'S GOT SOME SORTA SWORD--
SEEMS PRETTY UNLIKELY, DOESN'T IT, OFFICER?

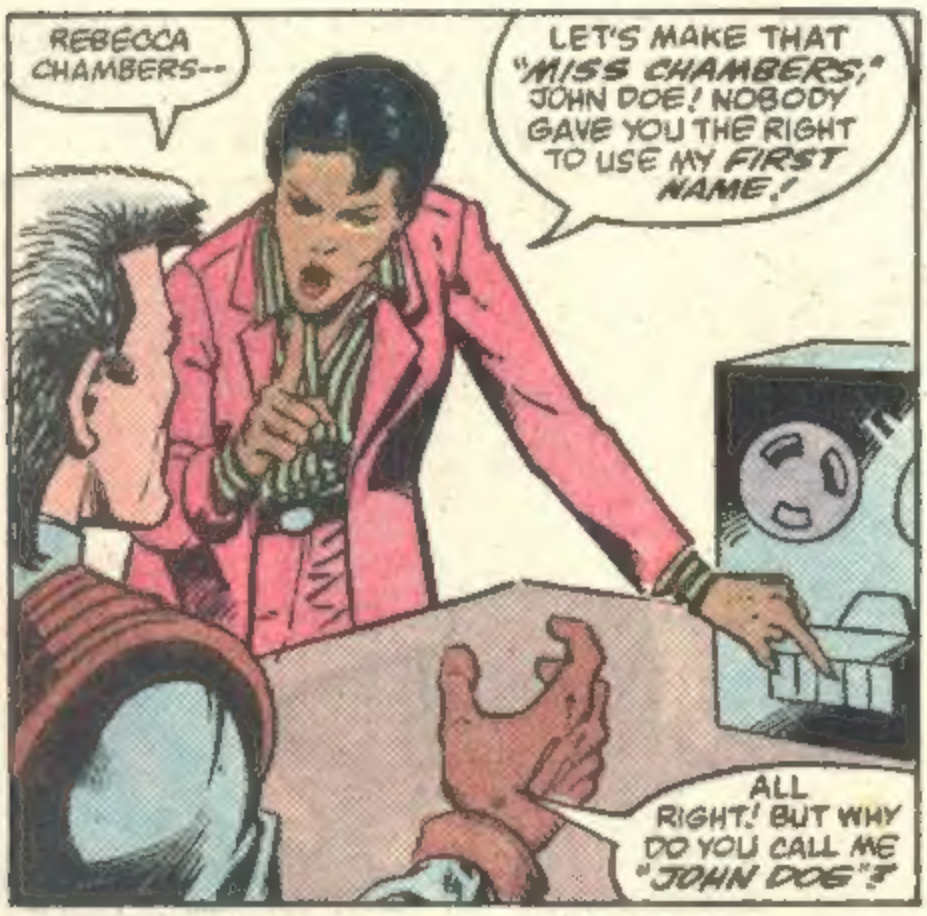
I MIGHT HAVE ACQUIRED ONE OF THE KNIFES AVAILABLE WITHIN THESE WALLS, AS THESE TWO DID--
--BUT A SWORD--?


SO YOU ADMIT YOU USED A KNIFE ON THEM?
I DO NOT! I HAD AND HAVE NO KNIFE!
THEN HOW'D YOU GUT THESE GUYS LIKE THIS?
I'VE MET ONLY ONE PERSON WHO CAN UNDERSTAND THAT, OFFICER!

TAKE ME TO REBECCA CHAMBERS AND I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL TO HER!


BECKY CHAMBERS IS SIPPING BEAULIEU CHARDONNAY IN A BUBBLE BATH WHEN THE CALL COMES THROUGH! SHE NEEDS TIME TO UNWIND AFTER THE EXCITEMENT OF HER FIRST FEDERAL CASE--
--BUT SHE GETS TO CENTRE STREET BEFORE SHE'S FULLY DRY!
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?

YES!


REBECCA CHAMBERS--
LET'S MAKE THAT "MISS CHAMBERS," JOHN DOE! NOBODY GAVE YOU THE RIGHT TO USE MY FIRST NAME!
ALL RIGHT! BUT WHY DO YOU CALL ME "JOHN DOE"?

IT'S WHAT WE CALL GUYS WE HAVEN'T I.D.'D YET! SINCE YOU WON'T GIVE US YOUR NAME, WE'RE RUNNING YOU THROUGH THE COMPUTER!
I WON'T ASK WHAT A COMPUTER IS-- BUT HE MUST BE VERY SLOW! I'VE BEEN HERE THREE OF YOUR DAYS!
MY DAYS, JOHN?
THEY'RE NOT MINE, MISS CHAMBERS! THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO EXPLAIN TO YOU!

GO RIGHT AHEAD! I'M ALL EARS!
I COME FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE-- DON'T ASK ME WHERE BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW! BUT IT WAS BEAUTIFUL THERE!
I WAS A WARRIOR THERE-- SOMEHOW INVOLVED WITH JUSTICE! I WAS--

--A JUSTICE-WARRIOR! YES! THAT'S RIGHT!
A JUSTICE-WARRIOR!
UH-HUH!
A JUSTICE-WARRIOR WHO KILLS PEOPLE!

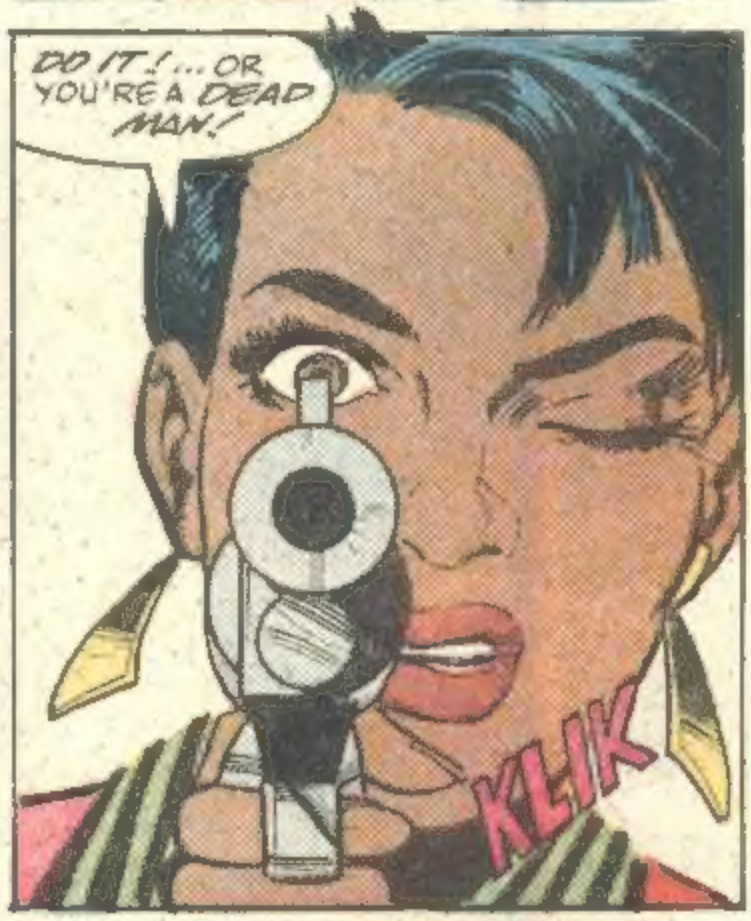
NOT ALL PEOPLE! JUST THE GUILTY ONES!
THE MEN I DETERRED IN THE "JAIL" WERE TRYING TO KILL ME! THE MAN I DETERRED AT THE DANCE-CLUB WAS TRYING TO KILL ME! *
* LAST ISSUE.

HE WAS AN UNDERCOVER AGENT, J-MAN! HE WAS ONE OF OUR "JUSTICE WARRIORS"!
OUTWARDLY! BUT HE MUST HAVE BEEN DECEIVING YOU AS WELL AS HIS CRIMINAL ASSOCIATES!
I SAW HIS EVIL NATURE!
YOU'RE AS CRAZY AS A BEDBUG!

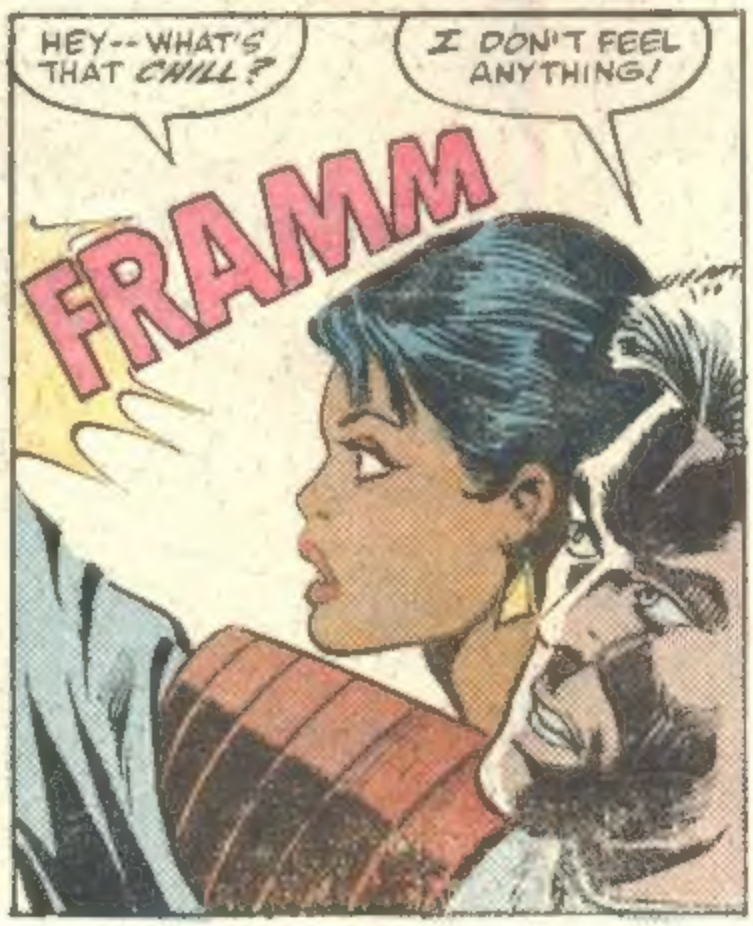
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU CAN'T ACCEPT IT! I SEE YOUR NATURE, TOO -- GOLDEN, PURE--
-- YOU COULD LEARN TO SEE WHAT I SEE EASILY!
THANKS! BUT A GLASS OF WHITE WINE IS MY LIMIT, AND WHATEVER YOU'VE BEEN INTO MUST BE SERIOUSLY ILLEGAL!
NOW, ARE YOU GOING TO EXPLAIN YOUR SWORD, OR--

UNNHH?!!

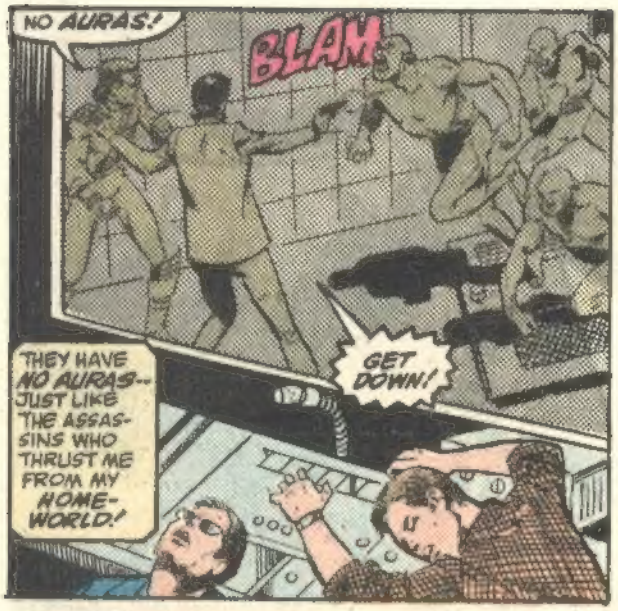
BACK AGAINST THE WALL! TURN IT AROUND, AND SPREAD 'EM!
MISS CHAMBERS, YOUR AURA NEEDS TO MINGLE WITH MINE! IT WOULD HELP US BOTH--


DO IT!... OR YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!
KLIK

THIS WON'T GET US ANYWHERE--
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO COP AN INSANITY PLEA, YOU JUST MADE A BAD ENEMY! I'M GOING TO OPPOSE YOU AT EVERY HEARING!
YOU THINK BECAUSE I'M A WOMAN, YOU CAN TRY SOMETHING LIKE THAT! WELL, YOU'RE WR--

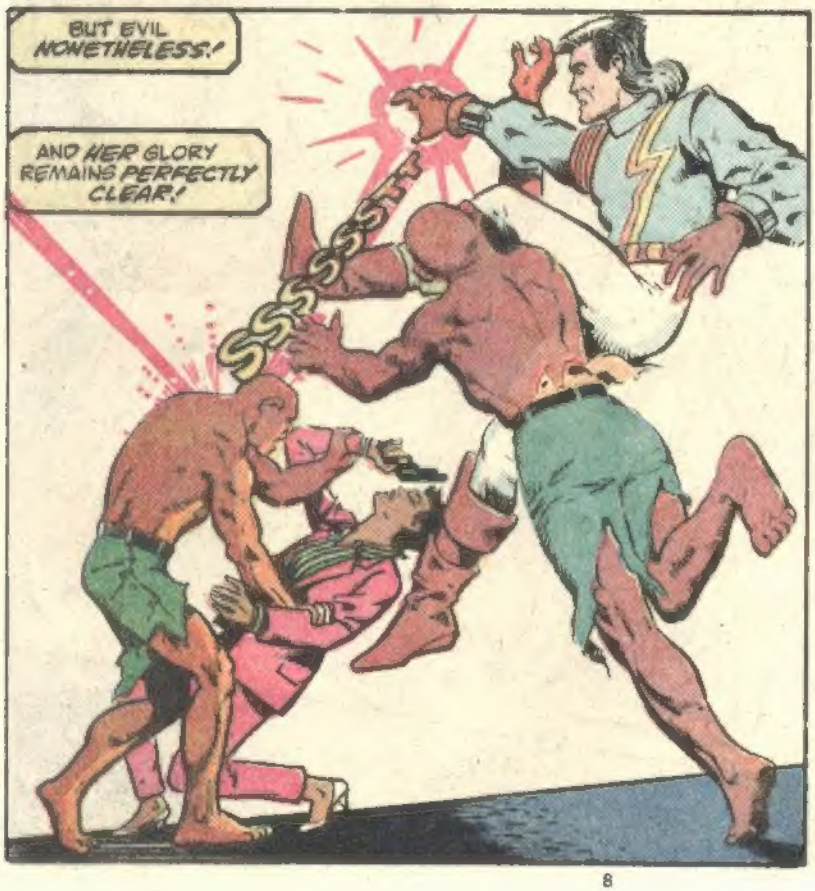

HEY-- WHAT'S THAT CHILL?
I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING!
FRAMM

YOU'RE A DEAD MAN, JUSTICE-WARRIOR!


NO AURAS!
BLAM
THEY HAVE NO AURAS-- JUST LIKE THE ASSASSINS WHO THRUST ME FROM MY HOME-WORLD!
GET DOWN!

PLOW!
BUT THEY HAVE NO AURAS! HOW--
GET DOWN!

I'VE GOT THIS ONE, MASTER!
SHE'S GOT WONDERFUL ENERGY!
SHUT IT DOWN, BUT DON'T SUCK IT YET! THE JUSTICE IS OUR ASSIGNED SOURCE!
EVIL THAT I CANNOT SEE--!


BUT EVIL NONETHELESS!
AND HER GLORY REMAINS PERFECTLY CLEAR!

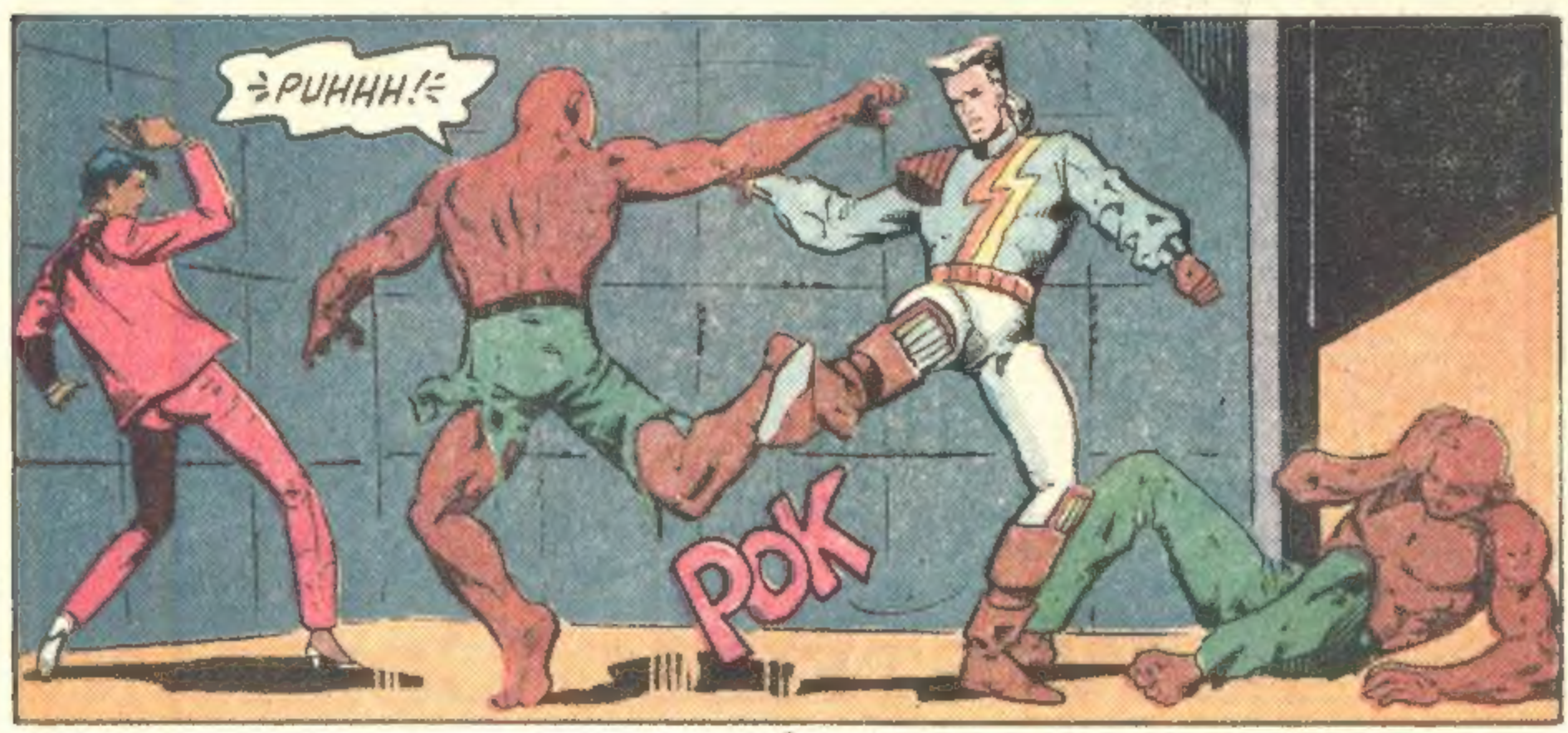
HAR HAR HAR HAR! YOU'RE THE ONLY MAN EVER TO MEET THE HOUNDS AND LIVE, JUSTICE--
--BUT WE'VE HUNGERED FOR THE CHANCE TO MAKE UP FOR OUR PACKMATES' MISTAKE!
MY SWORD DOESN'T AFFECT YOU!
LIKE YOU SAID, WE HAVE NO AURAS--NOTHING FOR YOU TO CONNECT WITH--

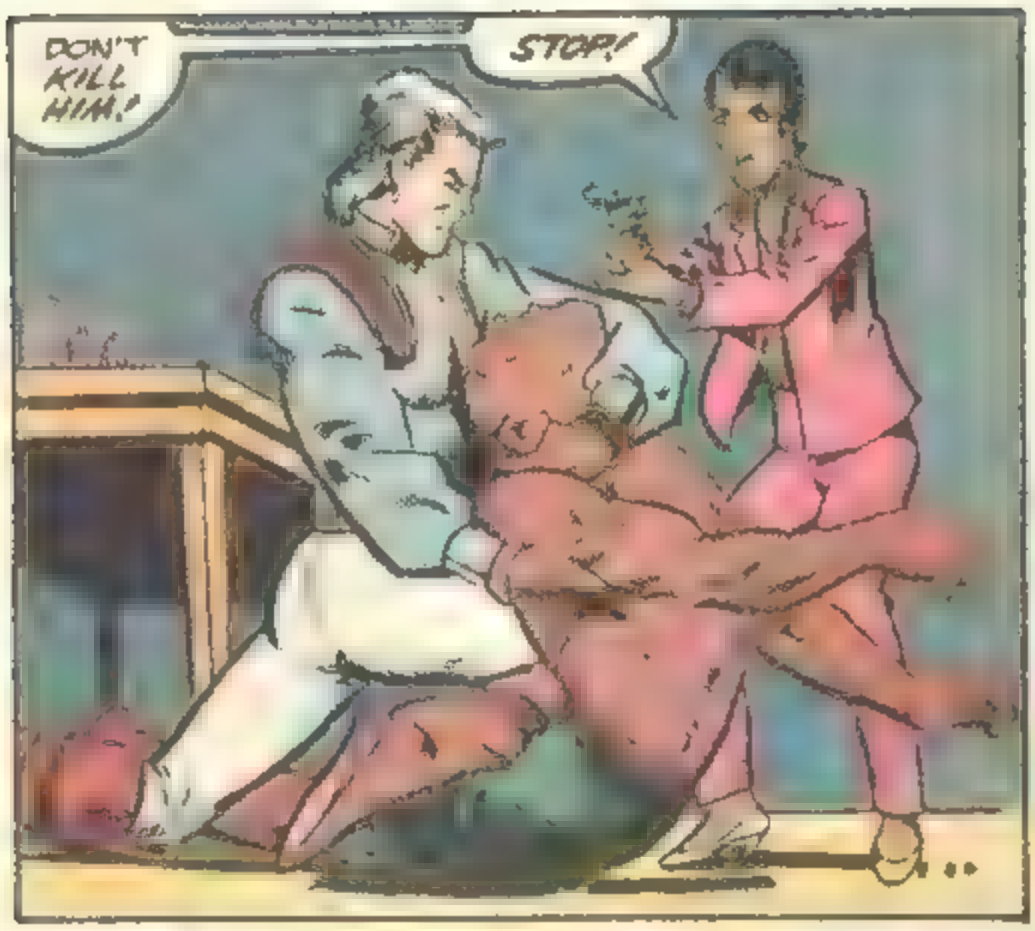
-- AND IF YOUR SWORD IS USELESS, SO IS YOUR SHIELD!
BUT FLESH CAN CONNECT WITH FLESH!

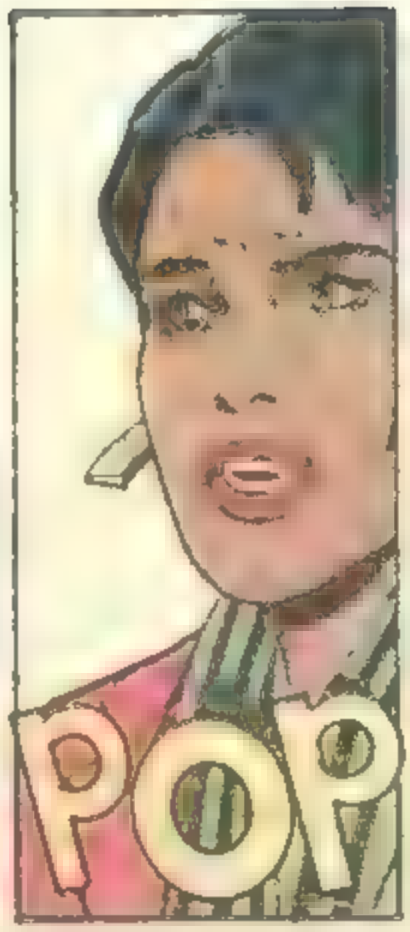
KLOK
ARRROO!

PLAK
EEEEE!

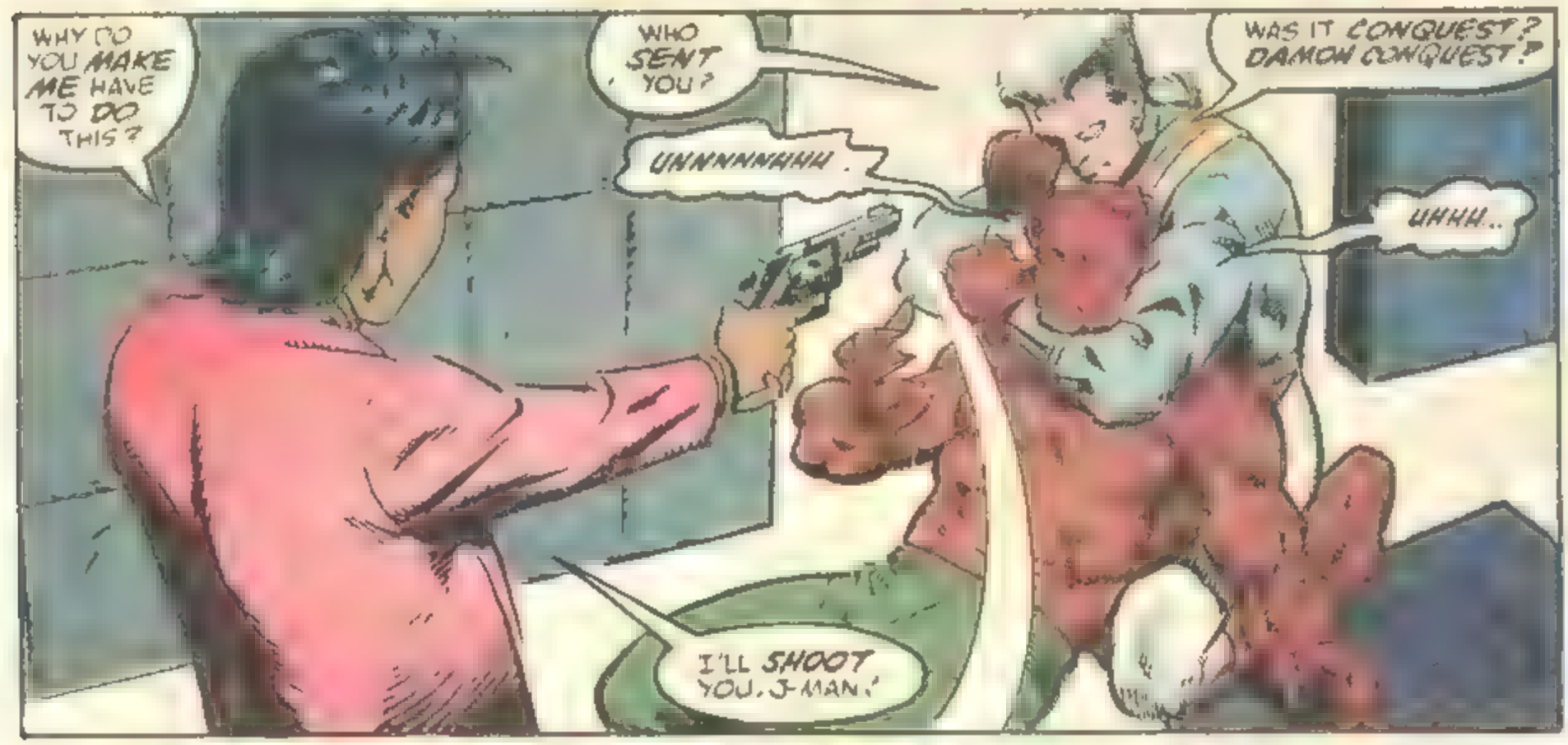
WHOP
STOP HIM! STOP--


PUHHH!
POK

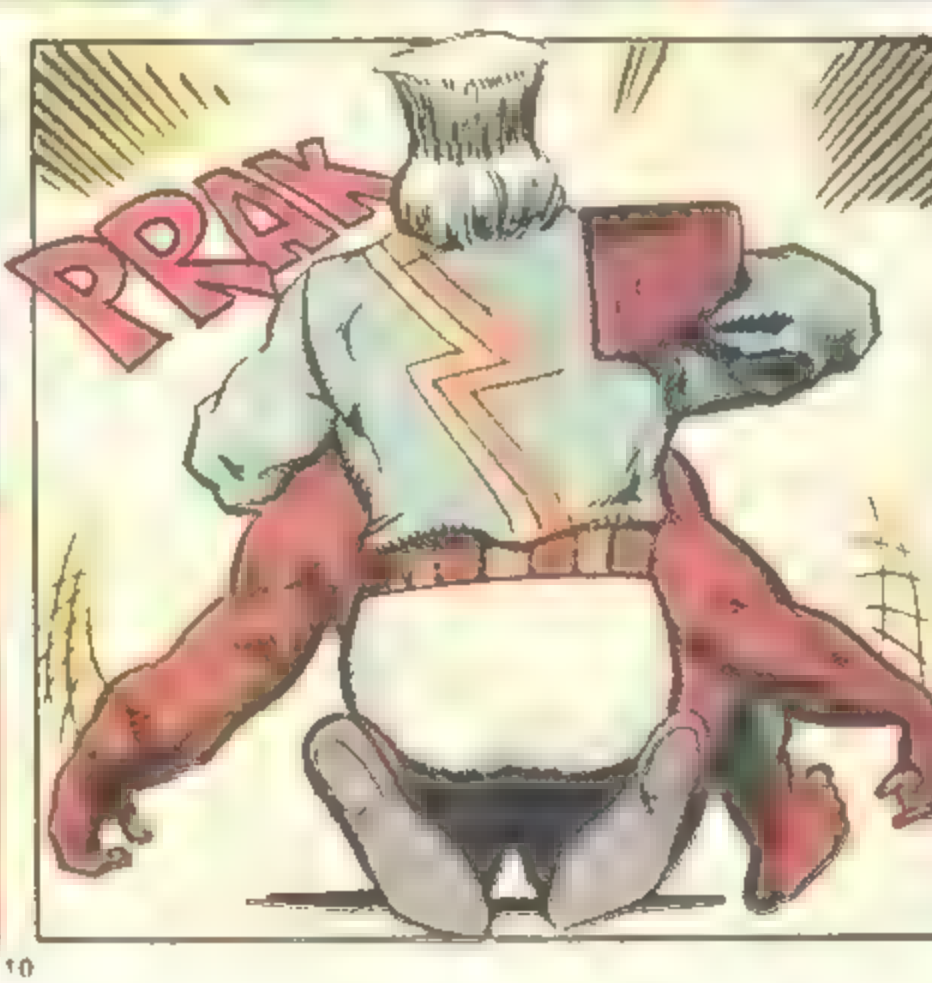

DON'T KILL HIM!
STOP!


POP

CURSE YOU!

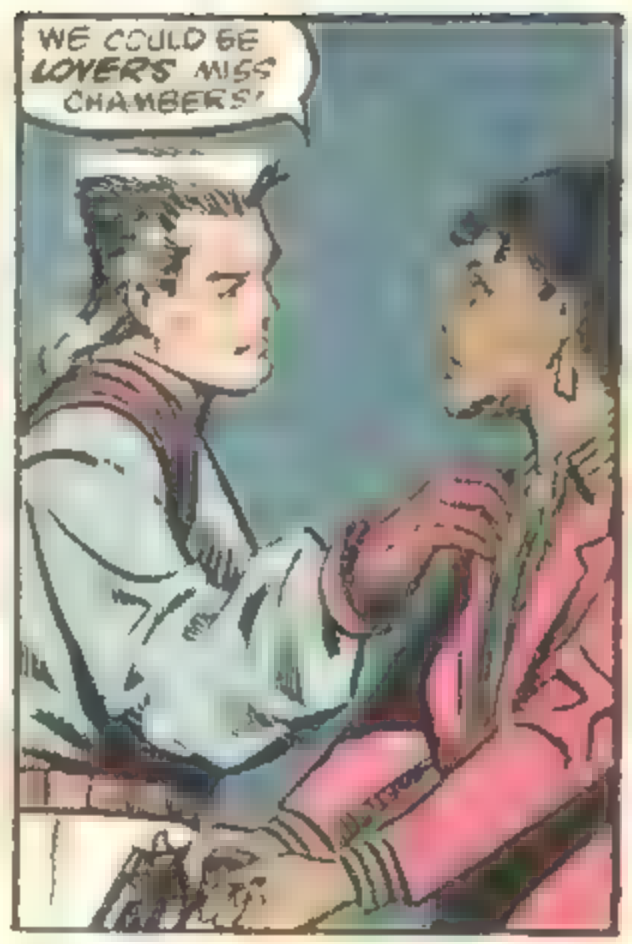

WHY DO YOU MAKE ME HAVE TO DO THIS?
WHO SENT YOU?
UNNNNNHHH.
WAS IT CONQUEST? DAMON CONQUEST?
UHHH..
I'LL SHOOT YOU, J-MAN!

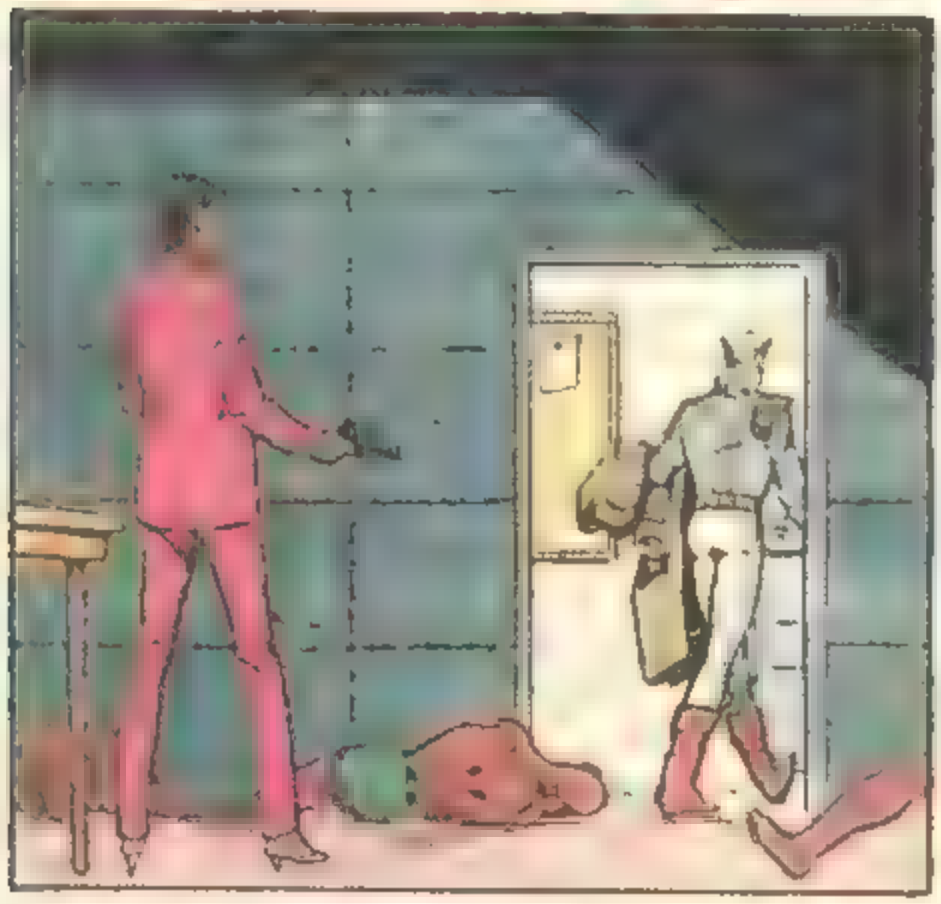
SHE WON'T YET!
DAMON CONQUEST?
Y-YEAH...

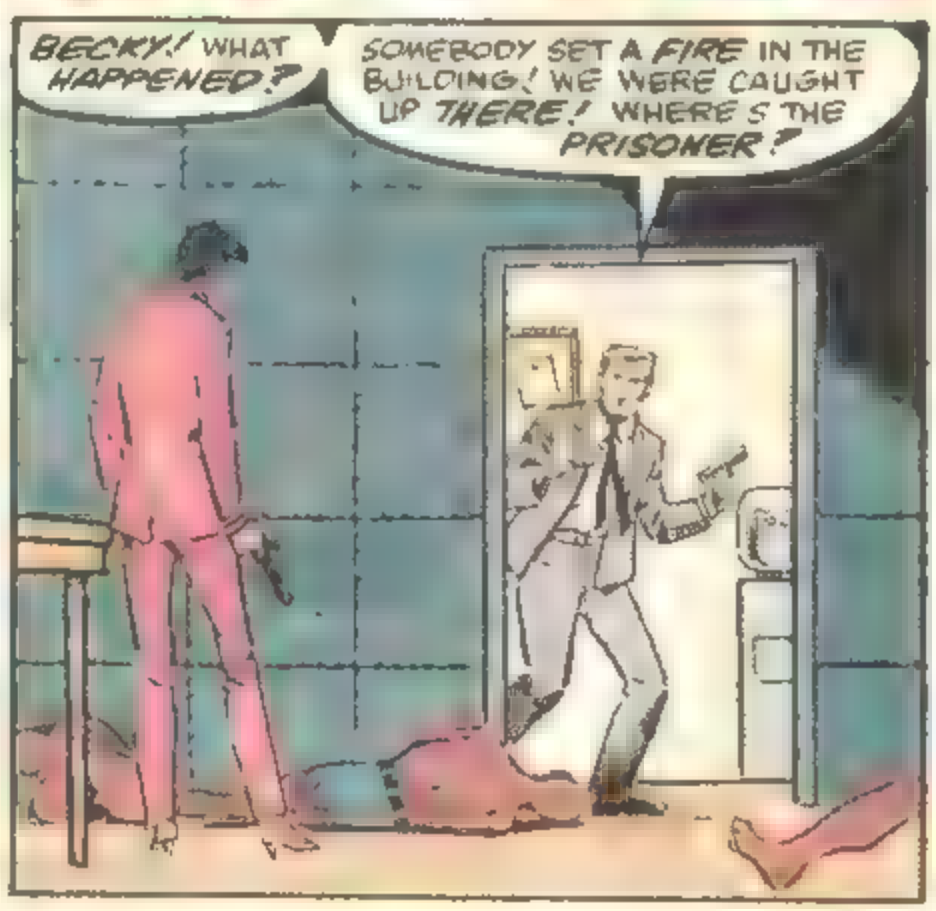

PRAK

I WARNED YOU--!
BLAM
PINGG

MY SHIELD AND MY SWORD ARE POWERS GRANTED A JUSTICE-WARRIOR--
-- AND THEY WORK AGAINST ANYONE WITH AN AURA!

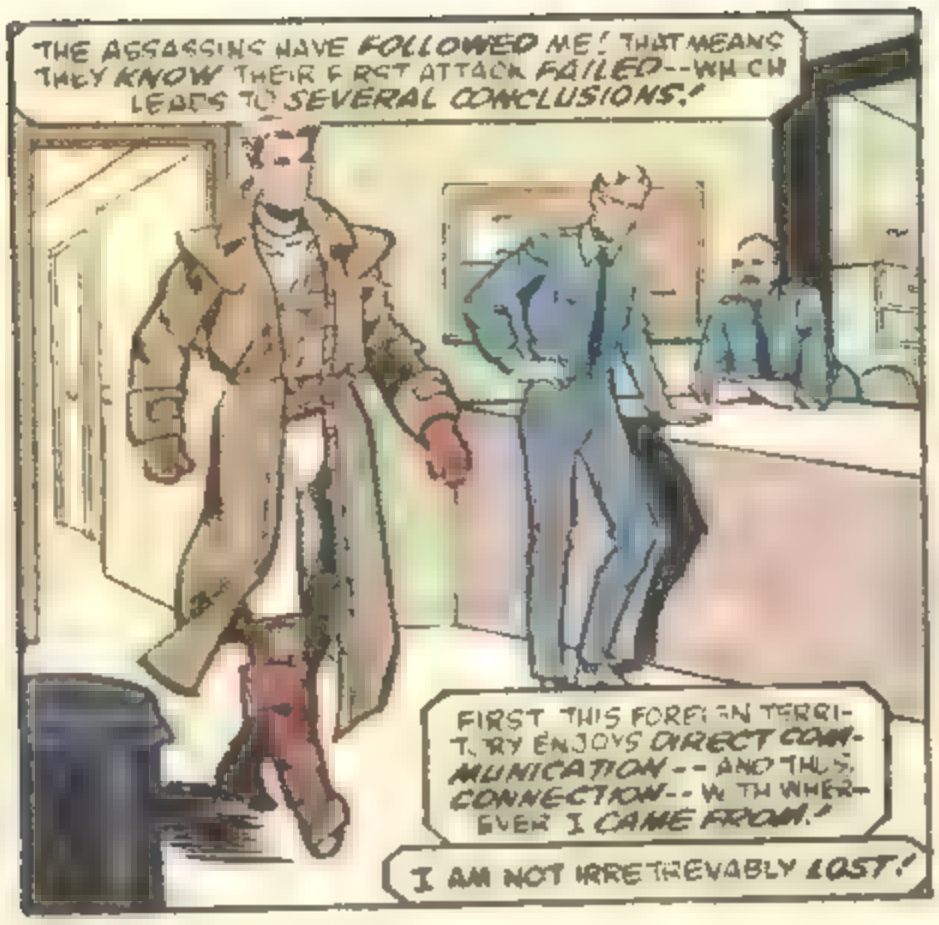

WE COULD BE LOVERS MISS CHAMBERS!




BECKY! WHAT HAPPENED?
SOMEBODY SET A FIRE IN THE BUILDING! WE WERE CAUGHT UP THERE! WHERE'S THE PRISONER?

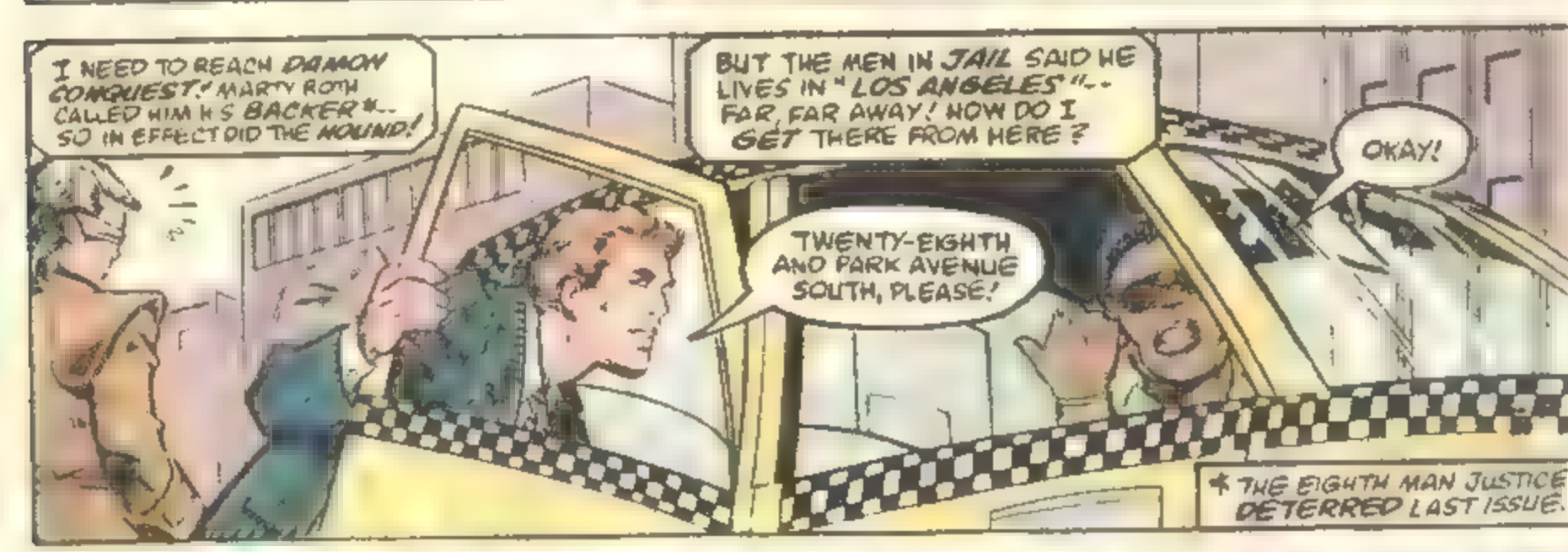
WHO ARE THESE GUYS?
PITT, I WANT A COMPLETE SECURITY CLAMP-DOWN ON THIS!

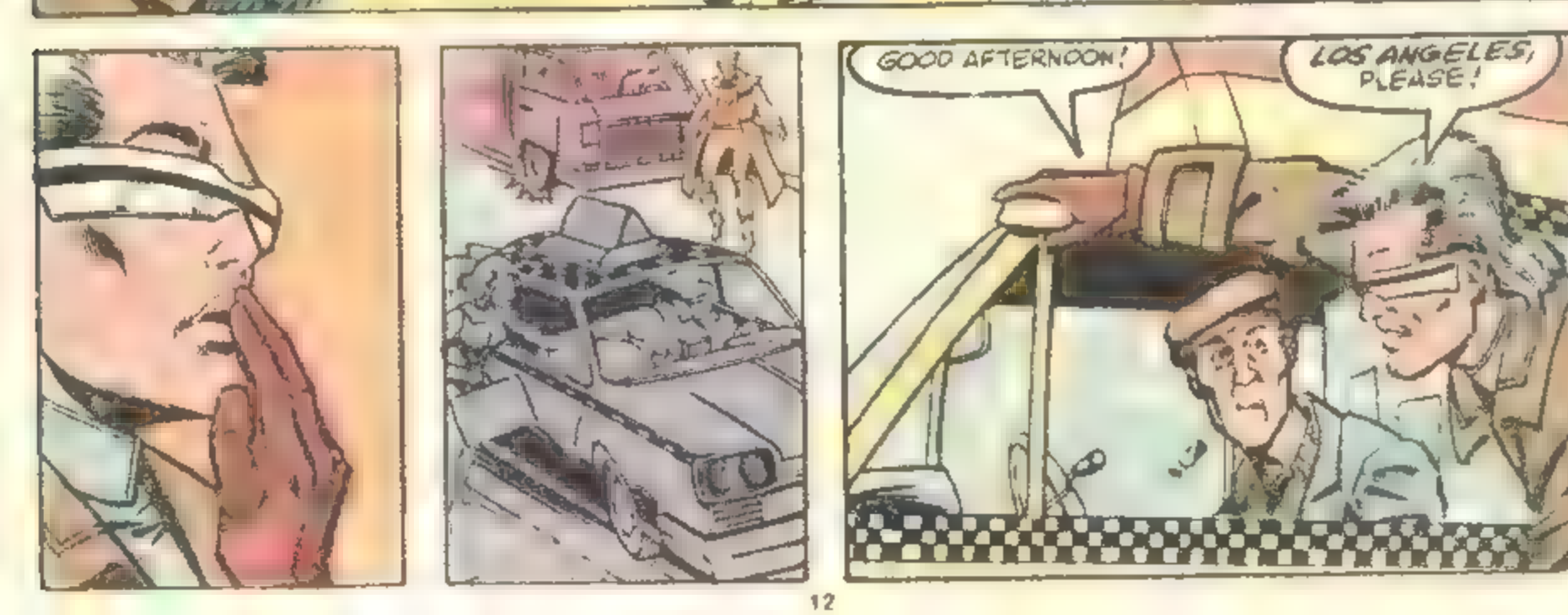
NOTHING GETS OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT TILL WE--WE--
--UNDERSTAND--!


THE ASSASSINS HAVE FOLLOWED ME! THAT MEANS THEY KNOW THEIR FIRST ATTACK FAILED--WHICH LEADS TO SEVERAL CONCLUSIONS!
FIRST, THIS FOREIGN TERRITORY ENJOYS DIRECT COMMUNICATION--AND THUS, CONNECTION--WITH WHEREVER I CAME FROM!
I AM NOT IRRETREVABLY LOST!

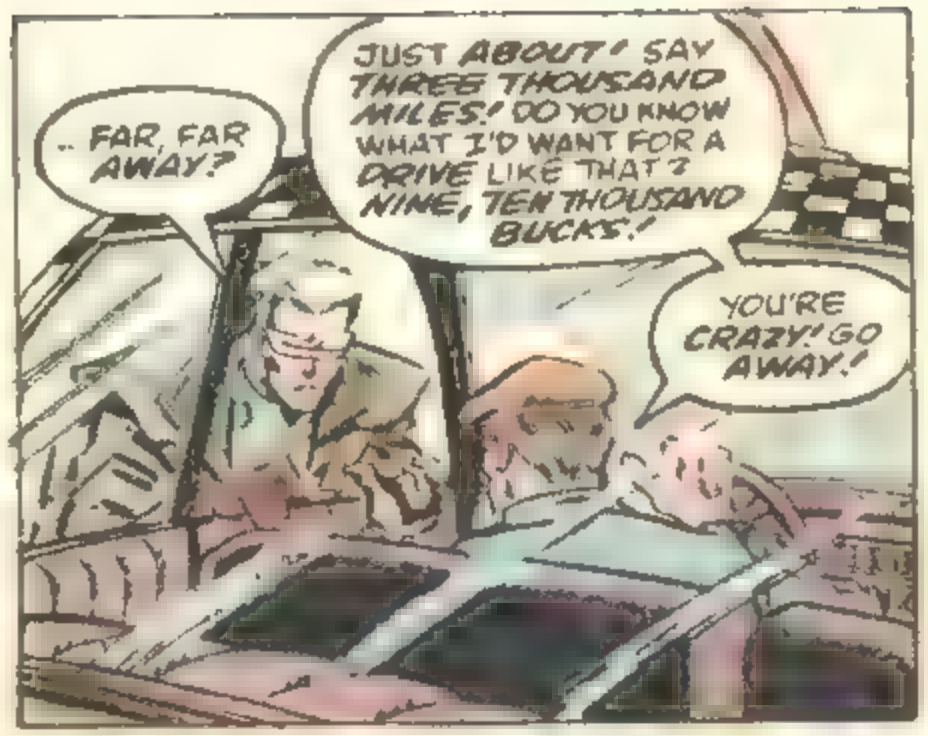
SECOND, THEY OPERATE HERE WHICH MEANS THEIR MEANS OF RETURN CAN BE MY MEANS OF RETURN, IF I DEFEAT THEM!
I CAN GET HOME!

AND THIRD--IF I DON'T DEFEAT THEM--
POLIC
--MY CERTAIN FATE IS DEATH!
TAXI!

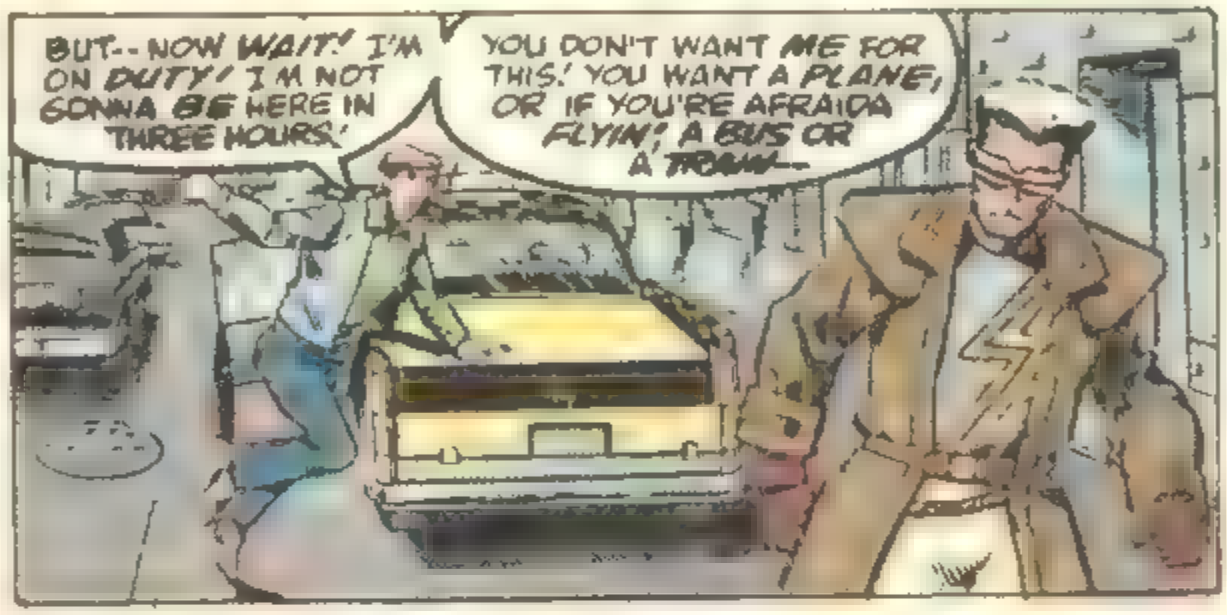

I NEED TO REACH DAMON CONQUEST! MARTY ROTH CALLED HIM HIS BACKER*--SO IN EFFECT DID THE HOUND!
BUT THE MEN IN JAIL SAID HE LIVES IN "LOS ANGELES"--FAR, FAR AWAY! HOW DO I GET THERE FROM HERE?
OKAY!
TWENTY-EIGHTH AND PARK AVENUE SOUTH, PLEASE!
* THE EIGHTH MAN JUSTICE DETERRED LAST ISSUE.

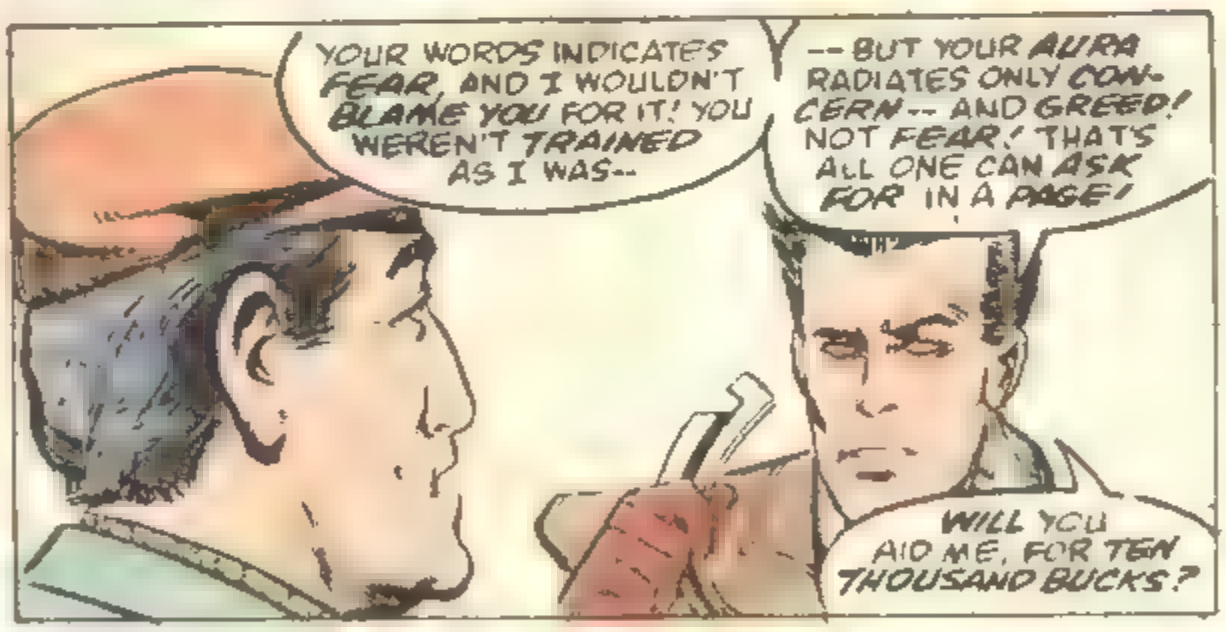

GOOD AFTERNOON!
LOS ANGELES, PLEASE!

WHADDERYOU, A COMEDIAN?
NO! A JUSTICE-WARRIOR!
DID I MAKE A MISTAKE?
MISTER, DO YOU KNOW WHERE L.A. IS?


.. FAR, FAR AWAY?
JUST ABOUT! SAY THREE THOUSAND MILES! DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'D WANT FOR A DRIVE LIKE THAT? NINE, TEN THOUSAND BUCKS!
YOU'RE CRAZY! GO AWAY!

TEN THOUSAND BUCKS!..!
I CAN GET THAT!
YOU CAN?
I'LL BE BACK AT SUNSET!


BUT-- NOW WAIT! I'M ON DUTY! I'M NOT GONNA BE HERE IN THREE HOURS!
YOU DON'T WANT ME FOR THIS! YOU WANT A PLANE, OR IF YOU'RE AFRAID FLYIN', A BUS OR A TRAIN--


YOUR WORDS INDICATES FEAR, AND I WOULDN'T BLAME YOU FOR IT! YOU WEREN'T TRAINED AS I WAS--
-- BUT YOUR AURA RADIATES ONLY CONCERN -- AND GREED! NOT FEAR! THAT'S ALL ONE CAN ASK FOR IN A PAGE!
WILL YOU AID ME, FOR TEN THOUSAND BUCKS?

.. YEAH-- OKAY!
BUT I CAN'T WAIT HERE THREE HOURS WITHOUT SOME CASH UP FRONT!
SORRY-- I HAVE NEITHER CASH NOR BUCKS JUST NOW!
GO YOUR WAY, AND WHEN THE SUN DESCENDS INTO TWILIGHT--

-- I'LL FIND YOU!

MEANWHILE AND MEANWHERE, THE KING AND QUEEN OF SPRING ARE SLIDING THROUGH THE WOODLAND GLADE WITH THEIR WIZARD, WEBSTRAL, AND A COTERIE OF WARRIORS, WHEN--

STOP THERION! STOP!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, ENDOLANA? EVERY MOMENT WE REMAIN OUTSIDE THE WATCHTOWER OF THE SOUTH WE'RE IN DANGER!

BUT DON'T YOU FEEL IT? THE CHILL AROUND US NOW?

I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING!

WEBSTRAL?

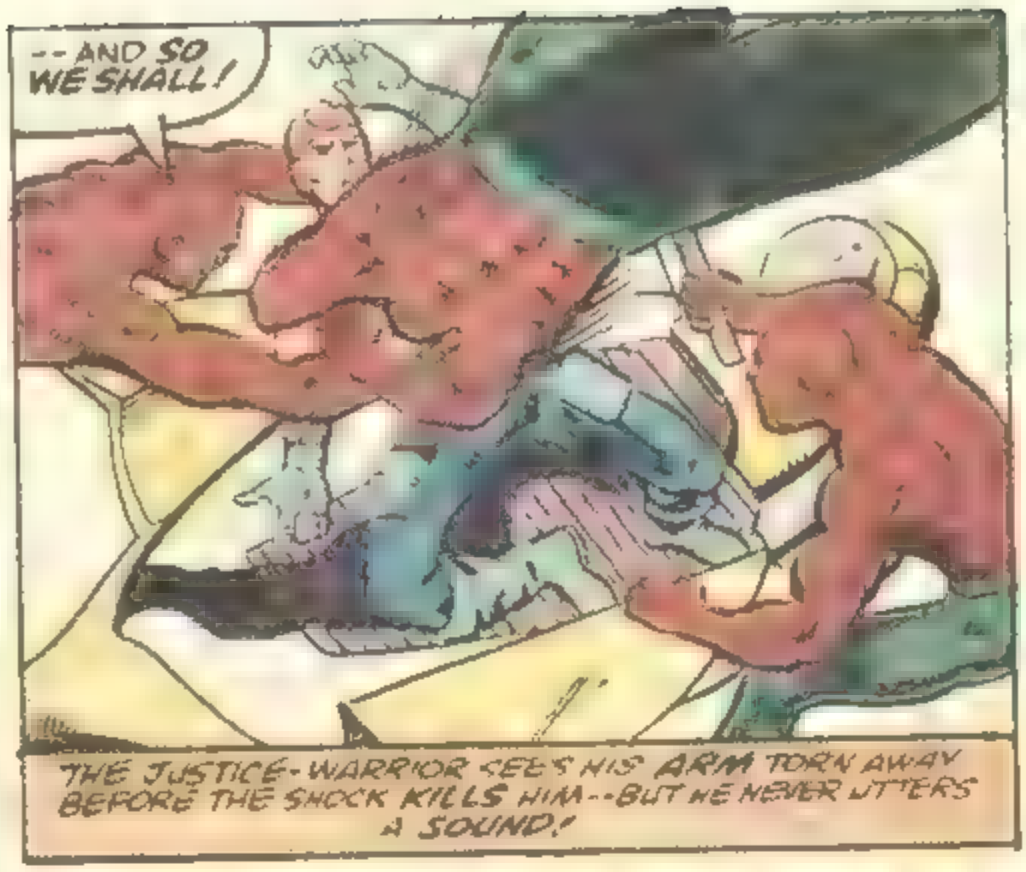
NOTHING, O KING! PERHAPS THE QUEEN IS OVER-STIMULATED FROM THE LONG AND HASTY JOURNEY!

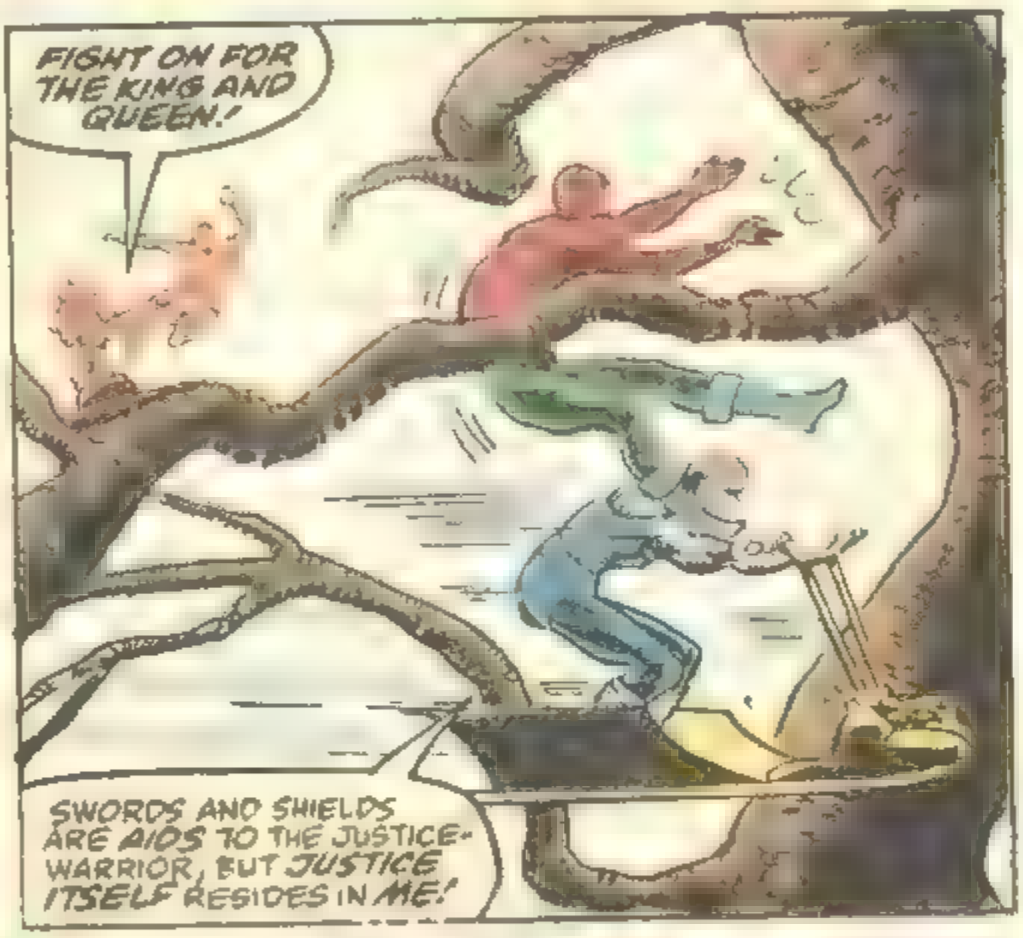
CERTAIN IT IS THAT OUR CAUSE FACES DANGER AS NEVER BEFORE, BUT WE'RE SAFE IN THIS TIME AND PLACE!

BUT--

YOU'RE DEAD ALL OF YOU! DEAD!

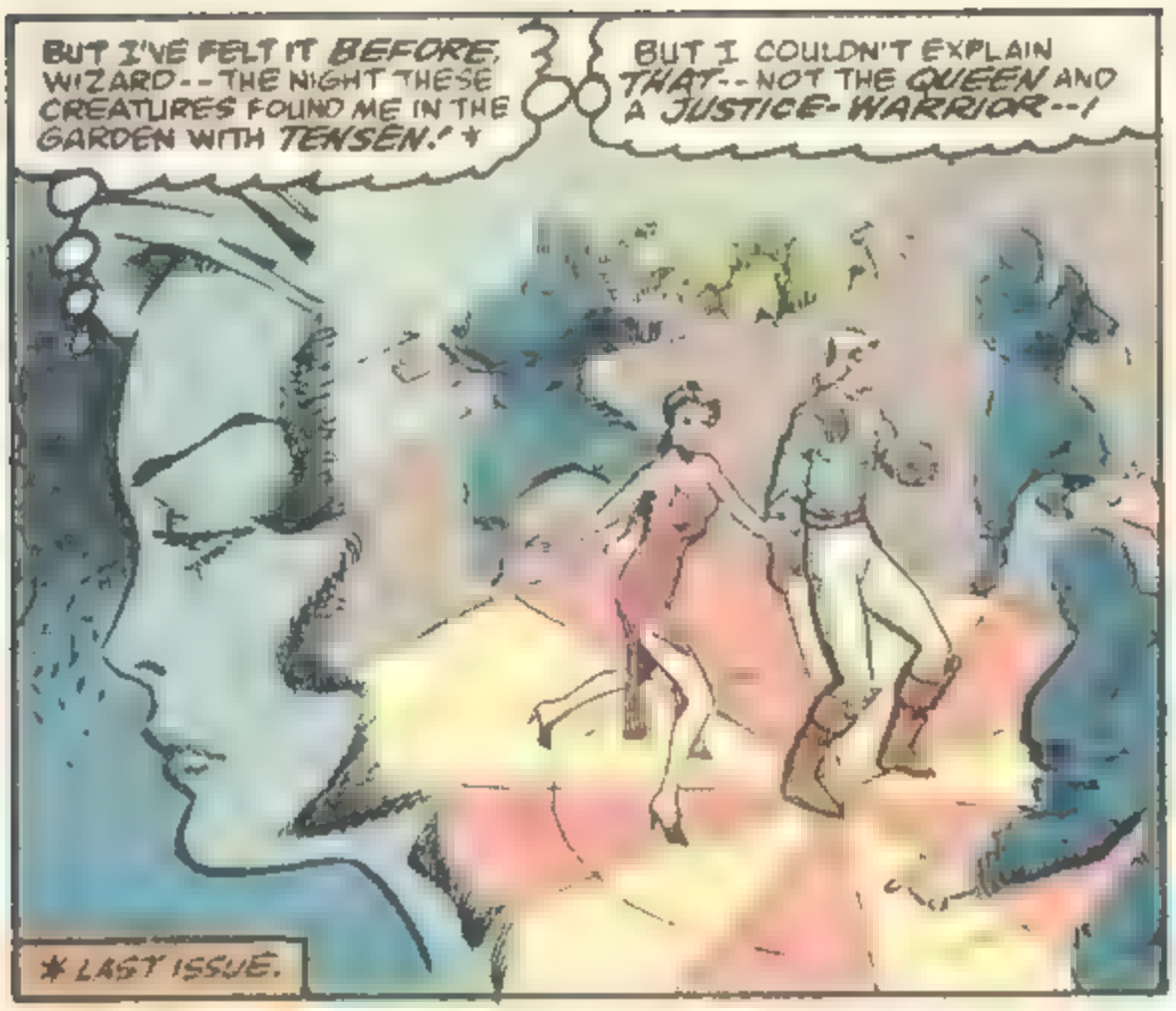
THEY HAVE NO AURAS!
MY SWORD SLIDES OFF THEIR SKIN!
AS DOES YOUR SHIELD, JUSTICE-WARRIOR!
STRIPPED OF OUR AURAS, WE MUST CONSUME OTHERS!

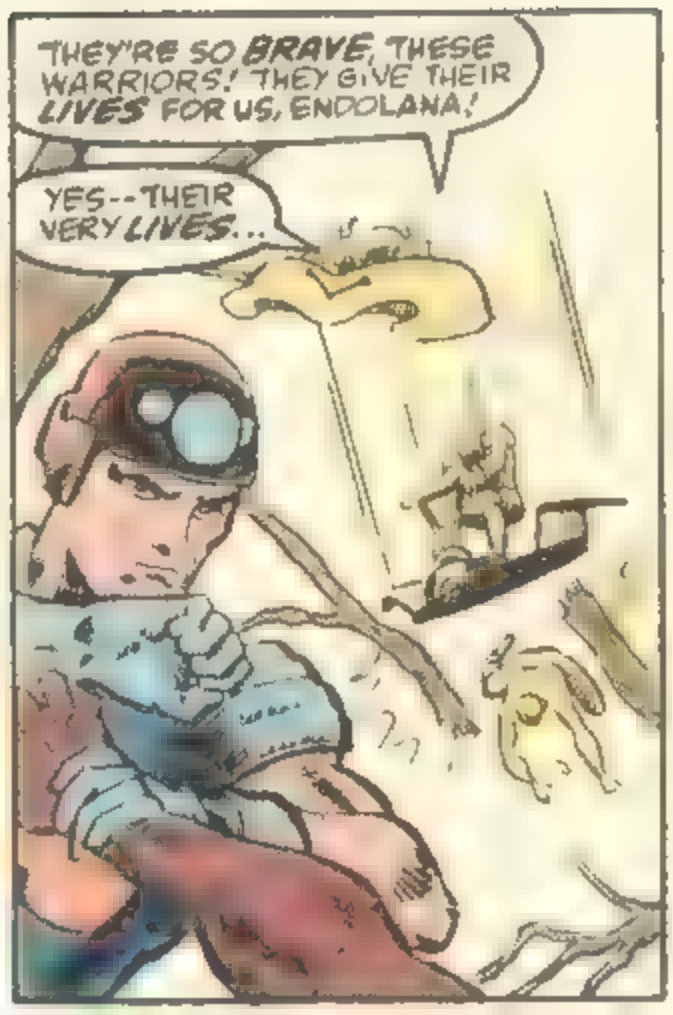

--AND SO WE SHALL!
THE JUSTICE-WARRIOR SEES HIS ARM TORN AWAY BEFORE THE SHOCK KILLS HIM--BUT HE NEVER UTTERS A SOUND!


FIGHT ON FOR THE KING AND QUEEN!
SWORDS AND SHIELDS ARE AIDS TO THE JUSTICE-WARRIOR, BUT JUSTICE ITSELF RESIDES IN ME!

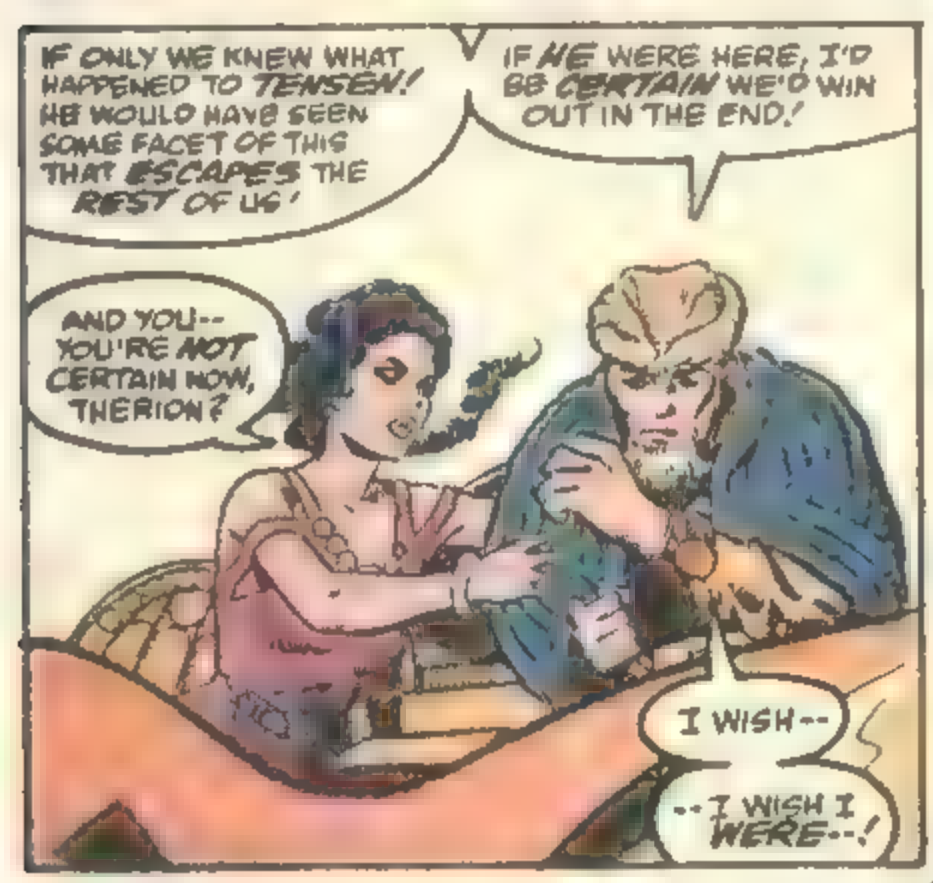
CAN YOU HELP THEM, WIZARD?
NOT NOW O KING! GIVEN A CHANCE TO STUDY THIS NEW FORM OF EVIL-DOER PROBABLY!
WELL, IF YOU GET YOUR CHANCE, IT'LL BE NO FAULT OF YOUR OWN, NECROMANCER!

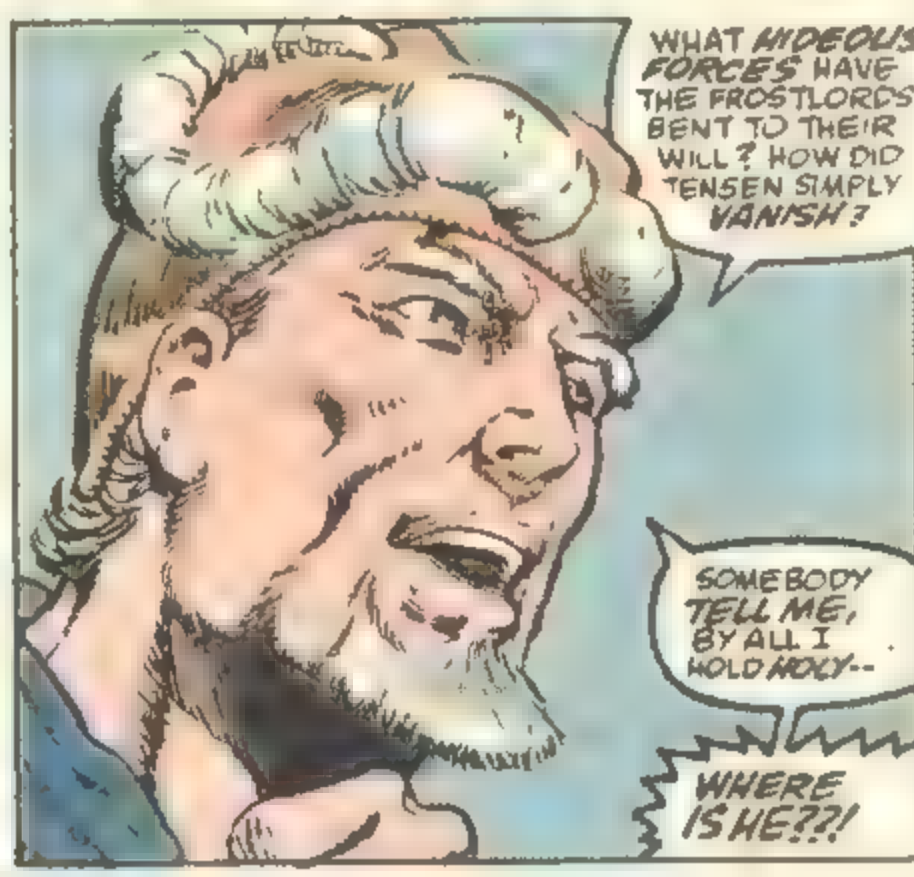
O QUEEN, NONE OF US HAS EVER ENCOUNTERED MEN WITHOUT AURAS BEFORE! I HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING--
YOU HAD THE CHILL WHICH SURROUNDS THEM!
I DIDN'T FEEL IT, MAJESTY!
I WONDER THAT YOU DID!


BUT I'VE FELT IT BEFORE, WIZARD--THE NIGHT THESE CREATURES FOUND ME IN THE GARDEN WITH TENSEN.! *
BUT I COULDN'T EXPLAIN THAT--NOT THE QUEEN AND A JUSTICE-WARRIOR--!
* LAST ISSUE.


THEY'RE SO BRAVE, THESE WARRIORS! THEY GIVE THEIR LIVES FOR US, ENDOLANA!
YES--THEIR VERY LIVES...

STOP! DON'T KILL HIM!
THIS WAS A NEAR THING--SO NEAR--!
I NEED HIM ON MY HILLTOP!
AND THE WIZARDS OF WINTER ARE SOMEHOW GETTING STRONGER EVERY MOONRISE!


IF ONLY WE KNEW WHAT HAPPENED TO TENSEN! HE WOULD HAVE SEEN SOME FACET OF THIS THAT ESCAPES THE REST OF US!
IF HE WERE HERE, I'D BE CERTAIN WE'D WIN OUT IN THE END!
AND YOU--YOU'RE NOT CERTAIN NOW, THERION?
I WISH--
--I WISH I WERE--!


WHAT HIDEOUS FORCES HAVE THE FROSTLORDS BENT TO THEIR WILL? HOW DID TENSEN SIMPLY VANISH?
SOMEBODY TELL ME, BY ALL I HOLD HOLY--
WHERE IS HE??!

HELLO! I NEED TEN THOUSAND BUCKS!

LOOK AT THIS NOW! THE FOOL WHO TAPPED CLEVON AND JEAN-PAUL!

I'D'A THOUGHT YOU'D BE AS FAR AWAY FROM HERE AS POSSIBLE BY NOW, FOOL.

THE FACTORY WAS THE FOCUS OF THE DEALING IN DRUGS, AND MY FELLOWS IN JAIL TOLD LURID TALES OF THE BUCKS INVOLVED!

UH-- LATER, SAL

THEY ASSURED ME THE DEATHS OF MARTY ROTH AND CHANGO VILLALOBOS WOULDN'T AFFECT THAT

THEY DID, HUH?

DID THEY TELL YA WHAT WE DO TO FOOLS WHO MESS WITH US?

THEY DID!

AHHH!

HE MELTED MARRO'S PIECE!

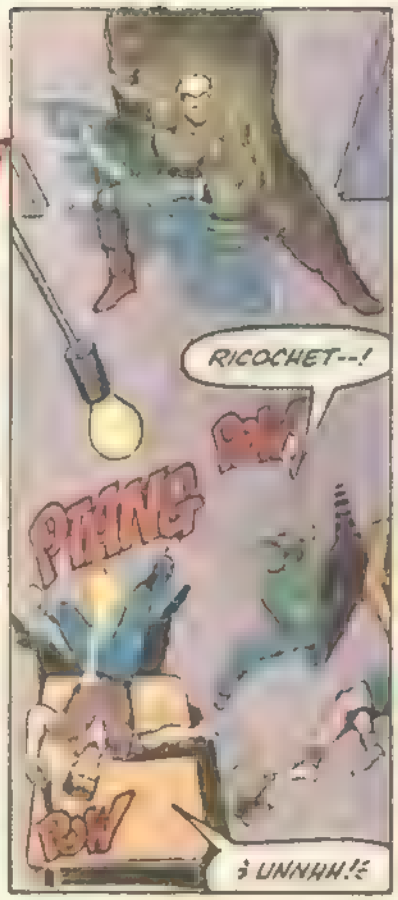
MY HAND! CABRON, THE FLESH IS GONE--!

YOU WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE!

KILL 'IM!

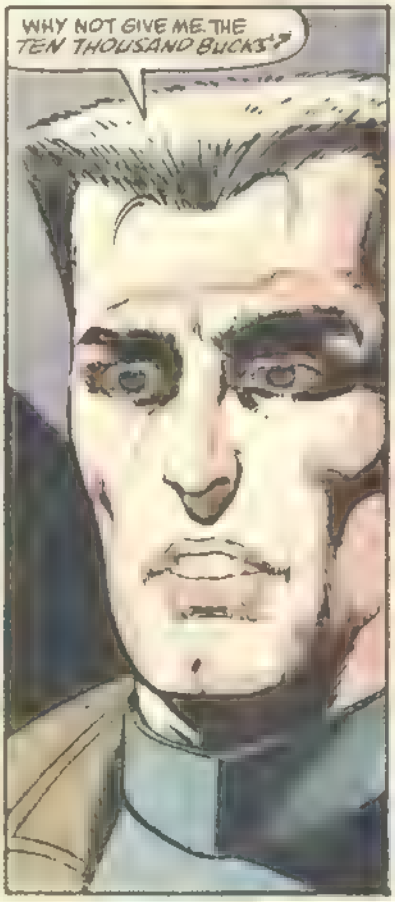
OFFENSE OR DEFENSE! I CAN'T HAVE BOTH AT ONCE!
POW
PING
POW

BUT IF I'M WORTHY OF MY TRAINING, I DON'T NEED BOTH AT ONCE!
POW POW POW
WHAT'S HE DOIN'?
I DON'T CARE! KILL 'IM, WHATEVER IT TAKES!


RICOCHET--!
POW
PING
POW
UNNHH!

ARRGH!
SLAMMING
LEG--!
THUD

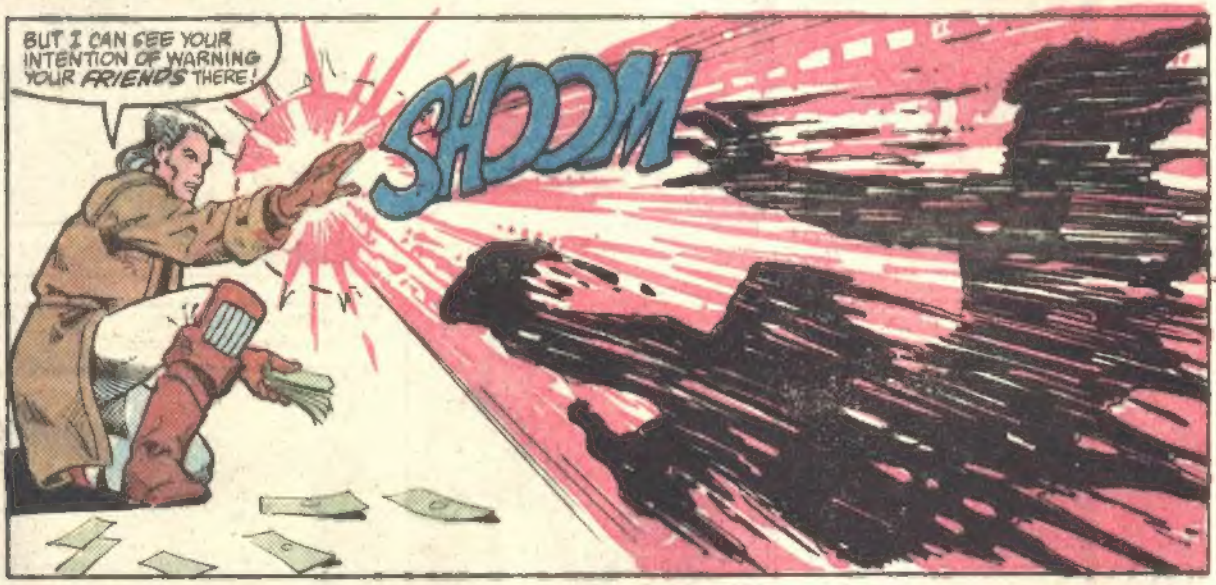
YOU AIN'T HUMAN--!
YES I AM!
NO, YOU AIN'T! BUT YOU DON'T SCARE ME,

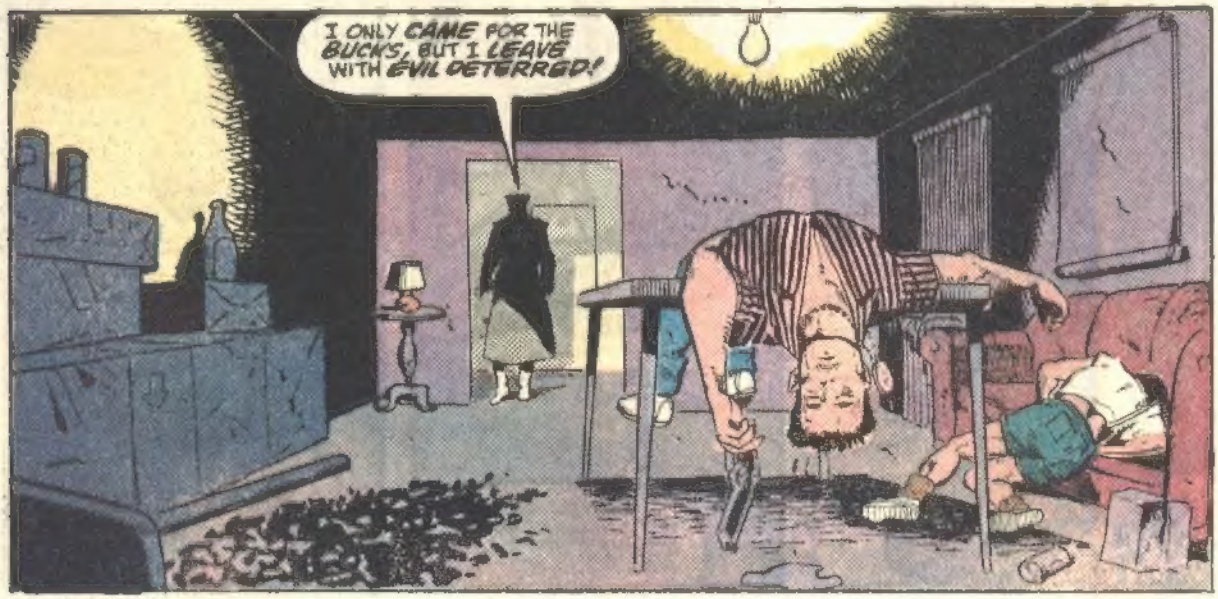

WHY NOT GIVE ME THE TEN THOUSAND BUCKS?

YOU MEAN-- THAT'S ALL YOU WANT?
THAT'S ALL I ASKED FOR!
WELL, THEN--

--HERE, TAKE IT! TAKE ALL YOU WANT!
TWENTY THOUSAND! TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND! YOU TAKE IT, AN' GET OUTTA HERE!

ALL RIGHT! I CAN SEE ITS USEFULNESS, AND I WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE TO GET MORE IN LOS ANGELES!
YOU'RE GOIN' TO L.A., HUH? WELL-- THAT'S FINE!
THANK YOU!


BUT I CAN SEE YOUR INTENTION OF WARNING YOUR FRIENDS THERE!
SHOOM


I ONLY CAME FOR THE BUCKS, BUT I LEAVE WITH EVIL DETERRED!

LOS ANGELES --
MR. CONQUEST! TOKYO ON LINE 4!

TELL MR. KIRITA I'LL CALL HIM BACK IN HALF AN HOUR!
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS!

YOU FAILED DAD, HOUND!
I-- WE'RE NEWLY-MINTED, CONQUEST! OUR PACKMATES FAILED AGAINST THE KING, TOO! BUT WE'LL LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES!

I'VE ALREADY LEARNED!
AAWRRROO!

THE CORRUPTION I CREATE HERE MUST BE PUT TO BETTER USES IN THE WIN-TERLANDS!
AND THE DAMNED JUSTICE-WARRIOR LOOSE ON EARTH MUST BE STOPPED!
AAAA! STOP!
AA!!!!!!!!!

YOU HUNGER FOR AURAS, HOUND! I'M GIVING YOU FREE ACCESS TO MINE!
STOP! STOP!
STOP--!

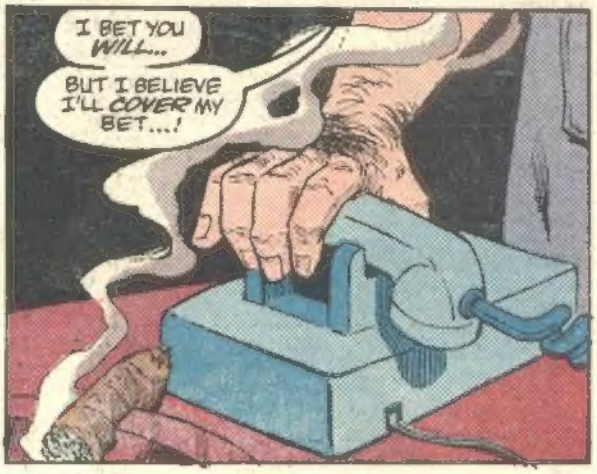
TOO EVIL--

BZZZKNG

HELLO, DAD!
DID THEY REALLY FAIL AGAINST THE KING?
THEY DID! BUT I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! THE BLEAK ENERGY WE FUNNEL HOME IS TIPPING THE BALANCE IN OUR FAVOR MOONRISE BY MOONRISE!
NO, I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THE KING JUST NOW--

-- I'D WORRY ABOUT THE JUSTICE-WARRIOR, TENSEN! HE KNOWS ABOUT YOU!
YOU THINK HE'LL COME TO L.A.? I HOPE HE DOES!
I'M FORCED TO LIVE A SECLUDED LIFE HERE, SINCE MY AURA WOULD DRAW ATTENTION EVEN FROM EARTHERS OUTSIDE THESE CLIMATE-CONTROLLED CORRIDORS!
I CRAVE A LITTLE EXCITEMENT!

YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD SON, DAMON! YOU'LL CONTINUE TO BE, IF YOU REMEMBER THAT CONQUEST IS OUR GOAL, NOT MERELY YOUR NAME!
EXCITEMENT DOES NOT OUTWEIGH RESULTS!
I'LL REMEMBER, DAD!

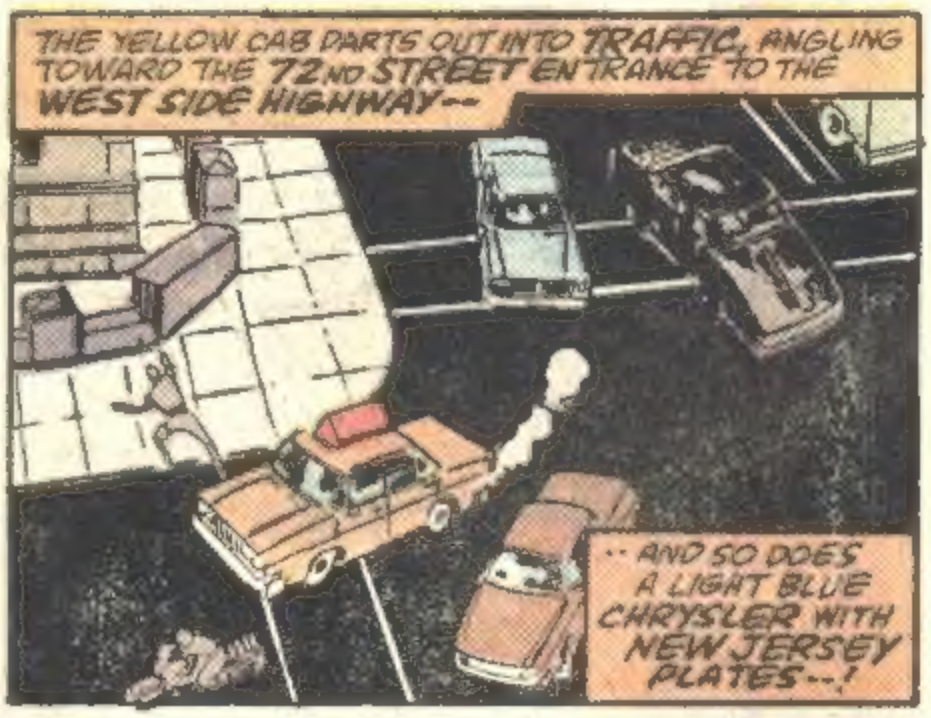

I BET YOU WILL...
BUT I BELIEVE I'LL COVER MY BET...!

TAXI!

HEY, IT'S YOU!
YOU DID FIND ME, BUT HOW--?
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND!

BUT HERE ARE YOUR TEN THOUSAND BUCKS!
HOLY JOE! I'VE DIED AN' GONE TA HEAVEN!

CLIMB IN-- SIR!
CALIFORNIA, HERE WE COME!


THE YELLOW CAB DARTS OUT INTO TRAFFIC, ANGLING TOWARD THE 72ND STREET ENTRANCE TO THE WEST SIDE HIGHWAY--
-- AND SO DOES A LIGHT BLUE CHRYSLER WITH NEW JERSEY PLATES--!

THAT'S HIM, BECKY! THE CABBIE'S DESCRIPTION WAS RIGHT ON THE MONEY!
WE'LL FOLLOW HIM ALL THE WAY TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN IF THAT'S REALLY WHERE HE'S GOING, OR MY NAME'S NOT HOYT PITTMAN!

GREAT...

NEXT: TATTOO!